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JPRS-UMA-87-006

30 JANUARY 1987

USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

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ARMED FORCES

BALTIC MD COMMANDER ON STRENGTHENING OF DISCIPLINE

Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 17, Sep 86 pp 17-24

[Article by Colonel General A. Betekhtin, commander of the Red Banner Baltic Military District: "The Commander-'Sole Commander' and Strengthening Discipline"]

[Text] Of the difficult and critical problems that the Armed Forces are resolving, some of the main ones are further strengthening discipline and law and order and increasing self-discipline. The success of this work depends on the joint efforts of commanders, political agencies, staffs and party and Komsomol organizations. The commander-'sole commander' has the primary role in this work.

The commander—"sole commander".... According to our understanding, the words "commander" and "sole commander" are inseparable, for unity of command is the most important organizational principle in the construction of the Soviet Armed Forces. It gives the military leader the right to make his own decisions, issue orders and instructions and have his subordinates carry them out absolutely, and also have his subordinates strictly observe Soviet laws and carry out military regulatory provisions and their own military responsibilities to the letter.

V. I. Lenin, who provided extensive theoretical grounds for this principle, considered the sole commander the natural and objective measure for the construction of a new type of army and the most expedient method, from a practical point of view, for commanding troops. The creator of our party and state taught that it is more important to very strictly unite the actions of a large mass of people, subordinate the will of thousands to the will of one and concentrate force command and control in a single set of hands, those of the commander, in military affairs than in other areas.

Being guided by Lenin's instructions, the party is consistently following the course toward strengthening unity of command and is making extensive demands on commanders. Officers of all ranks are being called upon to manifest responsibility, self-discipline and clarity in their activities, irreproachable discipline, efficiency, party principles, creative initiative and professional competence and master the Leninist system of working. And every leader must be a high-principled soldier of the party, must understand

the necessity of being unpretentious, benevolent and tactful, be attentive to people and care for them. The Soviet officer is not only a military expert who has invested himself with these major rights and powers. He is at the same time an organizer and educator of soldiers and an individual whose activities combine military and political leadership.

Our district has many resolute, skilled commanders who carry out their military duties in an honest and conscientious manner, who are able to skillfully train and educate personnel and who maintain organization and firm regulatory order in the units and subunits that are subordinate to them. This number includes Lieutenant Colonel A. Budeykin. When he assumed command in the military collective, discipline left a lot to be desired. The energetic commander set out to establish strong military discipline in the subunits. He began by convincing the officers that it was necessary to restructure their work style, get personally involved with the people, show concern for them and judge how things are going by personally observing how work is being done right in the platoons and companies. Budeykin himself and other communist leaders began to regularly visit subunits, monitor how the daily routine and training schedules were being carried out and help set up the training and educational process. Budeykin demanded that reports include not only discrepancies, but also methods for eliminating them.

One day a commander reported to Budeykin that there had been a gross violation of military discipline. "We punish them and punish them, but discipline is not improving," he sighed. "Absences without leave and poor performance on guard duty and I simply cannot think of what to do."

"Have you tried to find out the reasons for these violations?" Budeykin sternly asked. "Have you discussed this with other commanders, communists and finally with private soldiers? No. And it seems to me that the non-regulatory relationships that you for some reason are trying not to notice are the reason for this. Seek advice from people and think about what you have to do to exorcise this "sickness." Then come to me and we will talk about specifics."

Every officer did not immediately change his work styles. It was necessary to teach those who were not doing it correctly. And it was necessary to use force with those who did not reform and instead went through the motions with the new requirements. And there was increased demand on the officers, warrant officers and sergeants. They began to carry out their own duties in a more conscientious manner, set the example for their subordinates and show creativity and initiative in their work.

The commander found in the party organization reliable support in his battle to strengthen military discipline. Serious demands were made at party buro meetings on those officer-communists who were not focusing the necessary attention on the ideological, political and moral education of their subordinates and who were being quiet about violations of military discipline, thus giving their senior commander a picture of well-being in their collective. One commander in particular had to listen to a lot of well-based claims that he had a conciliatory attitude toward his subordinates' misdemeanors, he lacked a system for analyzing the state of military

discipline and was ignoring methods for preventing negative phenomena. The detailed analysis of the reasons for the violations of regulatory order and the measures that the party buro outlined to make people complete their work and stop making simplifications helped increase communist activity in the subunits that the officer commanded and helped in the battle to strengthen military discipline. At their meetings, the ruling party agency regularly analyzed the personal contributions that members and candidates for membership to the CPSU made to improve the professional training of soldiers and to maintain regulatory order; It also heard reports on this subject, constantly striving to bring all the decisions that it made to full implementation.

A man of high civilian and party responsibility, strictly guided in his activities by the CPSU demands that are made on the armed defenders of the Motherland today, Lieutenant Colonel A. Budeykin was able to adjust the training and educational process, rally people, allure them with a lofty goal, attain a high degree of organization and strengthen military discipline in a short time.

Reality convincingly confirms that military discipline responds to high demands when the commander is realistic, honest and evaluates what has been done to improve discipline by his own strict examples, when the commander actively seeks new ways for instilling regulatory order and when party organizations are clearly guided by the directives of the 27th CPSU Congress and react sharply to formalism, smugness and complacency. And I would like to add, where the officers see the total man and a personality in every one of their subordinates, where they show a genuine, and not a feigned concern for people.

However, can we be fully convinced that all of the officers in the district, down to the last one, correctly understand their role in the struggle to strengthen military discipline and are trying to do everything possible to be up to the demands of their position? Unfortunately, we cannot. There are still those commanders who are not totally coping with the duties that have been entrusted to them, who are permitting immoral acts and blunders in work and are thus undermining their own authority. In some collectives people talk a lot about the need to restructure party work and get close to people, but do little to actually get close to individuals. And it is precisely for this reason that military discipline is not at the required level in the unit where officer A. Vasilyev is serving. Here officer-communists take every possible opportunity to talk about the importance of direct contact with soldiers and knowledge of their needs and wants, but they in fact associate with people only across the presidium desk. It is as if the contemporary requirements to return to the people and to vital business do not apply to them. And things there have even reached the point where individual political days are used to analyze the deficiencies of subordinates and dress them down and also to pass out as many instructions as possible.

What do we see as the solution to this very important problem, the commander and the organization of the struggle to strengthen military discipline?

The tasks that were assigned by the 27th CPSU Congress presuppose a level of intellect, learning, competence and party dedication to business that is so high that the search for and advancement, training and education of people who are so endowed is becoming a very important political requirement. An intelligent person in place is a reliable guarantee of success if he is given the assistance to work at full strength. This is why work with the officer cadre holds center stage in resolving the problems of further strengthening military discipline. What do we mean here? We mean being more careful in selecting candidates for advancement and in setting up a productive organization for training commanders at all levels.

The question of the state of the commanders' ideological-theoretical, professional and methodological training is regularly raised at the district's military council meetings and officer operating styles are carefully analyzed, especially in light of recent CPSU Central Committee and USSR Ministry of Defense demands in the area of strengthening discipline and organization, improving the quality of military and political training and increasing individual work with people. Military council members, generals, staff officers and the district political agencies are studying the business and moral-political qualities of officers and are going on-site to teach them the most effective methods for commanding and controlling troops, for efficiency, the basics and for a political approach to resolving urgent problems.

In this regard I was personally impressed by the work style of Major General A. Kolomiytsev. When he goes out into the force to inspect combat readiness and the state of military discipline, he makes certain that he also gets to know how people understand the 27th Party Congress and June CPSU Central Committee Plenum restructuring requirements and what specifically they have accomplished in this area. He also tries to get into the essence of what they have accomplished, he gets with the commander to go over how effective his program is and at the same time he sizes up the individual and his qualities as a commander, organizer and educator. When the issue of assigning to a critical command position a young officer whom several senior officers doubted could do the job, Major General Kolomiytsev expressed certainty that the individual would be able to fill the position. And he was correct.

Only honest, conscientious, resolute commanders with initiative, those who are able to totally accomplish the obligations that have been assigned to them in the area of training and educating subordinates and those who are worthy of it, are being elevated to a new rung of service advancement. Unfortunately there are still times when rashness and errors in evaluating an officer's moral and business qualities and organizational capabilities are allowed in making cadre selections and placement. For example, the commander of a tank battalion, Major V. Cherskiy, was removed from the post that he was holding for dereliction of duty and having a rude attitude toward his subordinates. And yet there was a time when he was characterized as a long-term, thinking and disciplined officer, one able to cope with a great volume of work. He could not cope because he did not have those qualities that the senior commander had generously ascribed to him.

Why do such facts show up. Primarily because there are times when some chiefs have a formal approach to selecting, placing and educating cadres, they judge people more by the material in forms and the conclusions in recommendations which at times do not reflect objective information. There are times when they are not well-grounded, consistent and thorough in studying a candidate for advancement to a more important positions. It is felt that political agencies and local party organizations are failing in this laborious and daily work.

The situation is now changing. Both political agencies and party organizations are taking a direct part in cadre policies. But there are still errors in assignments once in a while. At a critical moment one commander showed professional impotence and another showed "altitude sickness" starting from his first steps in his responsible positions. He became coarse with people, pretentious and arrogant. I think that at times "personal" reasons, to include being friendly with someone and having the desire to be a "good" fellow, play a major role in the assignment of such officers. But it is paradoxical that the appropriate chiefs and political agency leaders often know that a communist-leader has bent his standards and advanced someone who should be not advanced, but they are diffidently silent. They say that the individual is a comrade, but this certainly should not be the case. Learning to work in the new manner demands frankness and directness in any party collective and a relationship that is build on a fundamental basis. And as the 27th CPSU Congress indicated, it is time to stop practicing misplaced tact in those situations that demand honesty, exactingness and a party conscience.

The present demands that communist-leaders constantly renew their knowledge, increase their qualifications and expand their ideological-political and scientific-technical horizons. And it also demands high morality. When a collective is headed by a commander who sets the example for everyone in carrying out his regulatory requirements and military oath, there are few disciplinary and regulatory violations.

Major V. Ivanov, holder of the Order of the Red Star and commander of the foremost artillery battalion, is such an intelligent leader. Recently at a meeting in honor of the winners of socialist competition he noted, "Discipline in the military collective starts with the sole commander. His strictness and demand must first and foremost be directed at himself. There is no hope of a subunit being successful unless the commander personally sets the example. A well-trained, experienced officer skillfully sets up the training and educational process and has effective control over the quality of field, tactical and marksmanship training for his personnel. He is demanding of himself and strict with his subordinates. But no one conceals resentment and people understand that all of this is being done in the interest of increasing combat readiness. And a lot of this is because subordinates respect the commander and the collective has developed a healthy moral-psychological atmosphere that has a wholesome effect on improving discipline.

Alas, all of our officers are still not following the rule that the commander must set the example in training and in service. Some of them are late for duty, are careless and commit immoral acts. Certainly, we have few such officers, but they are there and it is impossible not to see them. There is

nothing that causes more harm to the struggle for strong military discipline than having communist-leaders behave in an irresponsible manner that is incompatible with our morals. The district's military council and political agency are holding a strict line on this issue. The time has long passed for the transition from persuasion to demand. However, it seems to me that party organizations have not yet made their weighty contribution.

Reports from communists on the accomplishment of their party and service obligations are regularly heard at party committee and party buro meetings; party meetings include detailed discussions about the need to have leaders get close to their subordinates and individual educational work is being strengthened. There will undoubtedly be benefits from this. However, the benefits would be greater yet if the party organizations would demand more from those who serve with officers who are inclined to violate military discipline and who do "not notice" that their comrades are clearly not on the right path. And what happens when fundamentals have been blunted and the mutual exactingness of party members is blanketed by the desire not to ruin relations with one another, when the soil is rich for complacency and being all-forgiving, and therefore for violations of regulatory order, have been created? What is to be done then? The 27th CPSU Congress showed us the path to follow in this case. Comrade M. S. Gorbachev stressed "Success is guaranteed when the party organization lives a full-blooded life based on fundamental relations and communists are busy with specific activities and are not talking shop on general themes."

When looking at the commander's role in organizing the struggle to strength military discipline, it is impossible not to discuss the following. People are not born as skillful, thinking leaders. They become such leaders through the process of their own activities. This is why the district's command, staff and political department have the acute problem of training and teaching communist-leaders the effective norms and methods for educational work and equipping them with the latest experience.

The district regularly holds training and methodological sessions and practical and scientific conferences. Exercises are also presented within the command and Marxist-Leninist training system. The latest experiences of the best commanders, those who set up the training and educational process, are summarized and introduced. Units practice having officers carry out individual activities and their independent work is monitored. But we must recognize that the assigned goal is not always reached. And one of the reasons for this is that some leaders prefer mass forms of training. There is no doubt that this method is necessary. But the individual approach, the principle that "the senior teaches the junior," must be the main method. This simultaneously resolves the problem of teaching and training future cadres. Unfortunately some officers are not always willing to assimilate this principle. Once in conversation with the commander of one of the best units I asked who he considered his best successor. The officer was astonished. "Comrade Commander, am I not carrying out my duties?"

Individual educational work is a major art which many commanders still do not possess. We feel that is it of primary important to help them learn this art

and a lot is already being done in this area. The majority of units have lectures on the basics of military pedagogy and psychology and scientific and practical conferences and evenings for exchanging the latest experiences are devoted to the problems of military education. And it is important that the leadership take a very active role in these measures. Officers who have grown wise through life's great experiences can and must give the lieutenants invaluable assistance and protect them in a timely manners from the possible errors in working with people.

It is no simple task to restructure work in light of the requirements of the party congress and the June (1986) CPSU Central Committee Plenum. We understand that this restructuring must first and foremost occur in the consciousness, psychology and thought. This process is even painful at times. It is difficult for leaders to get rid of stereotypes and habits that they have developed, but there is no other way. A commander and senior chief can attain full mutual understanding with his subordinates and win their trust only through the vital work with people, and not across the presidium meeting table as still frequently happens. The educator's art also includes seeing everyone and exerting an influence on everyone. Why are there still cases where soldiers become sullen and do not go to an officer to share their thoughts, joys and misfortunes? Because that officer has not found the way to their hearts. One can measure the results of the commander-sole commander's work in strengthening discipline and developing and consolidating the military collective only by the trust of subordinates.

At the same time the turn to the work methods necessary to guarantee that the tasks of strengthening military discipline are successfully resolved is inconceivable without the commander-sole commander having the quality of exactingness. You must agree that a person may be well-trained as an officer and may have the knowledge to grasp the situation, evaluate it correctly and make the correct decision. But if he is not demanding of his subordinates, there is little use for his knowledge, experience and skill. And exactingness works best when it is combined with strict control over the accomplishment of the instructions that were given. And there are still times when this is precisely what is lacking.

Serious claims were once made at a military council meeting against the work style of the officers in the district's military training directorate. Their work lacked the necessary thought and clarity of purpose and this affected the end results. And all of this was because when they were inspecting the troops, these leaders saw only the poor methodological and professional skills of the officers, warrant officers and sergeants as the reason for the shortcomings that were detected in, for example, tactical, marksmanship or technical training. But they failed to notice that planning and training discipline was being violated in the unit and subunit and that the exercises were poorly organized. This was happening because commanders has lessened their exactingness on their subordinates and were unable to organize the training and educational process, strictly control it or rely on the party and Komsomol organizations and direct their activities toward resolving the vitally important issues. And this is precisely why a twice-decorate tank regiment, the pioneer of socialist competition in the district, did not meet its own commitments in the winter training period.

Strict party demand on the district's military council has forced many people to improve their methods of work, try to thoroughly grasp the processes that are taking place in the forces and to direct them into the required channel. All the chiefs of the district's directorates, services and staff sections visited the military collectives that were lagging, met with personnel, spoke at party and Komsomol meetings, went on-site to examine what had to be done to establish strict regulatory order and assisted commanders in restructuring work and asserting regulatory exactingness in their activities.

But we also have problems, to include the following, in this area as well. Some commanders, such as Lieutenant Colonel V. Rybak for example, feel that the more severe the expressions he uses and stronger he "scolds" his subordinates, the more he is manifesting exactingness. And he justifies this with that fact that he acts like this for the benefits he derives. This is a grievous error. Rudeness and swearing that humiliate the human worth have never nor can they promote a strengthening of military discipline. As was stressed at the June (1986) CPSU Central Committee Plenum, "The spirit of comradeliness must penetrate into all aspects of party life. While increasing the demands for the matter at hand, one must always recognize the clear border between party fundamentals and the humiliation of human worth caused by a dressing down. Any deviation from this rule will break a man's spirit, cause uncertainty in the collective and reduce the people's social interest and activity."

The creation of a healthy atmosphere is not just the responsibility of senior commanders who must correct those who enjoy "putting the fear of God" into their subordinates. It is also necessary to publicly talk about such communists at party meetings. Everyone is equal before the party. Only unfortunately this very seldom happens. In general, criticism from below is very careful and is manifested in the form of timid desires. And this happens because some members of the CPSU cannot totally and correctly imagine the essence of a commander's authority. It is impossible to discuss orders. But it is not only possible, but necessary to criticize conceit, rudeness and arrogance. Nonetheless political departments and party committees do not always set this tone. And the vital work with people is still not the predominate method in the activities of some of them. They are still using the formal, bureaucratic method of leadership. And it is for precisely this reason that at times healthy party criticism does not find an outlet and therefore does not have the necessary effect.

There will be no restructuring in consciousness, psychology and thought if we do not begin to call things as we see them and judge those things that are taking place around us in a skillful and party manner. This is why the military council and the political directorate have outlined the requirements of the 27th CPSU Congress which state that not a single party organization will remain outside the control and not a single leader will protect himself from party responsibility. The military council and political directorate will be persistent in implementing these concepts.

The struggle to implement military discipline signifies a comprehensive increase in party and political work, a further improvement in its forms and

methods and an increased role for political departments and party organizations in the life and activities of military collectives. The concepts of "commander" and "party" have become inherent in daily practice. Commanders are well aware that the accomplishment of their decisions is guaranteed not only by the strength of their order, but by all the means used for educational and ideological work. However, in reality there are still commanders, especially at the company and battalion levels, who do not have a full understanding of: what it means to rely on party and Komsomol organizations; how necessary it is to direct their efforts toward successfully accomplishing plans for military and political training and strengthening military discipline; and how to use the collective's mobilizing force, authority and creative activity to do this. There are commanders who, because of the instability of affairs, are not able to take the time to discuss with party organization secretaries and other active members the essence of the problems that the collective has. As a rule, at meetings they give general instructions and assign tasks and do not listen to the opinions of communists and Komsomol members, remaining uninvolved in their problems and showing no concern for increasing party influence on all aspects of the collective's life. And the overall situation suffers from this approach.

What must be done, in my opinion? Active participation in party and political work is a great school for all commanders. This is why it is important to have an officer develop the need to talk with soldiers on political topics from his first days in the unit and from his first independent steps. The CPSU Central Committee teaches that every communist, regardless of where he works, must come forward as a propagandist and a champion of the Leninist Party ideas and must give this exceptional matter all of his knowledge and spiritual strength.

When discussing the commander's role in the battle to strengthen military discipline, one must also include the fact that the work directed at maintaining sobriety as the obligatory norm for army life in the military collective is of great importance in this matter. It is certainly no secret that there are officers who abuse alcohol, an act that is immoral in and of itself and one that leads to violations of regulatory order and shortcomings in combat readiness. Therefore one of the most important tasks for today is to strive to have all commanders clearly carry out party directions and persistently and effectively promote having the officers and warrant officers in the subunits that are subordinate to them live according to the laws of communist morals. A fundamental support in this is to do individual work with those officers who have an inclination to use alcoholic drinks and increase the demands on them. I would like to focus attention on one area. It is now very important to have the work experience that commanders, political workers and party organizations have in eliminating drunkenness disseminated everywhere. But unfortunately this is still being done rather timidly. Should we be ashamed to have this major problem discussion? The struggle to maintain a sober life style in our environment requires that we have a very serious attitude toward the experiences of the foremost collectives.

The further improvement of discipline and organization is an issue of state importance. The success of all our work to increase combat readiness depends on the state of order in every sector. Working more persistently in this area

in fact means increasing the personal responsibility that leadership cadres have for discipline in the military collectives that are subordinate to them. And this is a very important condition for successfully resolving those major tasks that the 27th Party Congress assigned to the Armed Forces.

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ARMED FORCES

ZA RUBEZHOM REVIEW OF BOOK ON ARMS CONTROL

Moscow ZA RUBEZHOM in Russian No 37, 5-11 Sep 86 p 16

[Book review by A. Sergeev under the rubric "The Problem of the Century" of "Gonka Vooruzheniy: Prichiny, tendentsii, puti prekrashcheniya" [The Arms Race: Causes, Tendencies and the Way to Halt It] edited by A. D. Nikonov, Moscow, International Relations, 1986]

[Text] The Arms Race. This subject appears on the pages of newspapers and in radio and television broadcasts almost daily. However, even if you devote all of your attention to following just that which appears in the mass media, it would be very difficult, almost impossible, to obtain a complete picture of the problem on which the future of mankind hangs.

The book "Gonka vooruzheniy: Prichiny, tendentsii, puti prekrashcheniya" (primarily for propagandists, agitators and journalists) will assist in this. The collective of scholars gives a detailed analysis of the political, military and technological and social and economic aspects of the problem and portrays the struggle by world public opinion against the imperialist circles' increase of armed forces and arms. This book is especially timely. In reality, as M. S. Gorbachev emphasized in his speech on 18 August: "Mountains of nuclear and conventional weapons have been piled up and, nonetheless, the arms race is unabated, as a matter of fact it has increased its stride... The situation is becoming more and more intolerable."

On 15 January the USSR proposed a historic program to gradually rid our planet of nuclear weapons by the end of the century and to reduce conventional arms to the level necessary for self defense. As its reply to this important peace initiative Washington decided to abrogate the SALT-2 treaty. Also, there is very serious discussion in Washington of releasing another important brake on the arms race -- the ABM treaty.

Why is this taking place? Why do the ruling circles of the imperialist states, beginning with the United States, disregarding the will of the people, more and more pull mankind along the most dangerous path of expanding lethal arsenals and bringing the arms race to a qualitatively new, more dangerous phase by introducing all types of arms both nuclear as well as conventional and all types of military operations to all areas of the world? What are the details of this new phase of the arms race and how can this disastrous process

be stopped? These questions are answered in the book with a great deal of factual material.

The authors reveal the motives for the arms race and offer ways in which it can be "cut," many chapters add to and systematize the knowledge of the people who read about this problem which is constantly in the periodical press. It also raises some very important questions which newspapers and journals until now have not given enough attention.

This primarily concerns the combination of imperialism's military might. "One of the most clearly dangerous developments of imperialism's aggressiveness is the rapid process of combining its military power, making it a global system of existing and potential, both de jure as well as de facto multi- and bilaterally linked which are mutually interconnected more or less tightly with the United States and NATO and tied in one way or another to some degree to add their military and economic preparations to this bloc," the book states. Washington attempts to be more powerful than any probable opponent or rather the object of its attack in all areas of the planet in order to protect by force of arm the so-call vital U.S. interests. The resources of the United States itself are insufficient for this. The resources of the main U.S. partners outside NATO are very significant and, too, their military expenditures, to a great degree under pressure from Washington, have grown rapidly. Thus, in 1970 they were 36.1 percent of those of the Western European NATO countries, in 1980 they were 63.6 percent and by 1984 they reached 88 percent.

Outside NATO the United States uses a relatively flexible approach to combining military power. They do not attempt, it was noted in the book, to create a "strict" bloc with a precise organizational structure, but for many different reasons they direct their efforts toward establishing bilateral military and military-economic relations, even with countries which already belong to such an organization (for example, ASEAN).

The book convincingly shows that the desire of imperialism, primarily American, to halt the progress of the developing crisis in their system and to develop an broad attack against the forces of socialism and revolutionary-democratic and national liberation movements represents an enormous threat to all the world's peoples. Militarist circles in the United States and the countries that follow it plan to break the socialist world and suppress the striving of people for social equality by increasing international tensions and whipping up the arms race to achieve military superiority and economically "exhausting" the Soviet Union and its allies.

However, there is no future in a policy of total hostility and military confrontation. Turning to the past is not so much a response to the call of the future as an act of desperation, but the situation is no less dangerous because of this and it must be changed by the forces of all people to whom peace is dear. Having read the book it becomes very clear how much we need a new way of thinking in the nuclear age. A clear example of this is the new extention of the Soviet Union's unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing until 1 January 1987.

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CSO: 5200/002

NAVAL FORCES

LIFE ON SUBMARINE, COMMANDER'S QUALITIES DESCRIBED

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Nov 86 First Edition p 6

[Article by PRAVDA Special Correspondent V. Verstakov: "The Commanders' Path, Letters from the Pacific Ocean Fleet"]

[Text] This fall there were typhoons and rain on the along the coastal area. There were times when telephone poles and even bridges couldn't stand the rain and so fell, and movement along the roads was stopped. There were articles in the newspaper about the struggle against the raging elements and the radio carried summaries of the work.

But there was yet another difficulty that was not very well publicized. This fall, as was recently admitted by Pentagon representatives, American military vessels "attempted to approach to within artillery range of the territory of the USSR" in order to, again in their words, show "American might in the Far East."

Such was the operational situation, to use military terminology, during that normal naval exercise which included participation by the submarine that had taken me aboard.

We cast off from the pier late at night. The shores of the bay literally grew together in the darkness, the buoy-marked gate in the boom defense narrowed, a strong wind blew toward it and rain fell.

The commander with whom I was sitting on the conning bridge said, "There is water all around us, but the signs are good."

The conning bridge in a submarine reminds me of an open cab on a very large vehicle. It has removable frontal glass and seatbacks for the commander and the watch officer. Instead of a steering wheel there is a steering lever with which steering and signalman team petty officer (called a boatswain for short) Warrant Officer Aleksey Zaykov was steering without any fuss.

There was still time until we reached the point where we were to dive so it was still possible to look at the interior of the vessel. Such descriptions

usually concentrate on the closeness. Yes, you cannot stand erect in every corridor and you dive like a circus animal when moving from compartment to compartment across the entire vessel. Yes, officer, warrant officer and sailor cabins are small and short and the bunks in them are two- and three-tiered. The vessel also has some secluded difficult-to-reach nooks, called "skerries" in sailor' parlance, where, in case of need, you crawl on your knees and then on all fours.

But our submarine also has a shower (and it even has a washing machine in the dressing room) and there is a ship's first-aid post. You are correct, it is collocated with the one-man cabin belonging to the doctor and it does not have an isolation ward. The ship's kitchen, the galley, is rather spacious. Cook-instructor Andrey Abramov is now baking bread there, bread by whose quality, they say, one can determine all of the crew's other qualities.

There are also electrical generators in the submarine and devices for desalinizing water and purifying and cooling the air. The submarine has an internal television system used for technical purposes and a radar station, radio transmitters and receivers and computers. And finally there is the power plant and many types of weapons... In short, the submarine has everything needed to live and serve. And not all of this is available on shore, but they tell you about this beforehand.

And now three rings, short and long, scarcely a minute, resound through the compartments and the calm voice of on-duty engineer-mechanic Lieutenant Commander Sergey Cherkasov announces the training alarm for submerging. The silence was gone.

I am in the central compartment and I am involuntarily leaning backward. The submarine is noticeably diving, sloped downward like an airplane on its landing approach. True, in an airplane you can see the ground and the sky, but there are no lights in the submarine. And there is another difference -- the water is denser than the air, but is no less insidious. A hurried command, an inexact level movement or simply an underwater "hole" (a sudden change in water density) or a descending current that has formed suddenly and the unforeseen can suddenly occur...

On 10 April 1963 the U.S. Navy's nuclear submarine Thresher slipped passed its maximum allowable depth (360 meters). They were able to detect its wreckage at a depth of 2800 meters. On 21 May 1968 the American nuclear submarine Scorpion for as-yet unexplained reasons "collapsed" from 260 meters to a depth of three kilometers.

We almost ran into an ambush on the way to where there was a possibility of meeting with the "enemy," for the "northerners" had sent out their own submarine to meet us. But the sonar shift led by Lieutenant Commander Vladimir Zhernovenkov was able to make contact and classify the target just seconds ahead of the "enemy" submarine. There was an explosion of commands and reports: "Ship's combat crew to battle stations!.. Prepare torpedo tubes for firing!.. Open stopping valves!.. Set the torpedo running depth!.."

Another day passed and the submarine has now ploughing through the area where "northern" ships will probably appear. The submarine has come to periscope depth, submerged, classified targets (they were only transport and fishing vessels), received radio transmissions from shore headquarters, submerged and "galloped" toward a new location at the speed of a good automobile on a good road, come to periscope depth, classified...

But the time came and the commander, turning the steering levers with his forearm, tonelessly said, "I see the enemy. Radio operators prepare to send a report to headquarters."

A detachment of "northern" surface ships, a "disposition" as they term it in the navy, was moving in from the ocean. After determining the exact coordinates of the targets, Ivan Petrovich gave the order for the submarine to immediately submerge and change course: he had to break off from the enemy in order to safely radio the enemy's detection to headquarters, obtain reception confirmation and then close with the "enemy" and attack when possible with torpedoes.

All of this was serious and important and demanded attention and work from the submariners. But when at sea and now, having returned to Moscow, I involuntarily think about something else. At another time thirty American naval ships headed by the nuclear aircraft carrier Carl Vinson and the battleship New Jersey passed through these same areas toward Vladivostok. Would I be true to the readers if I described the two-sided Soviet ship exercise and not the real threat of an approach by foreign ships? By the way, I don't have to dramatize the situation. In the end, the Americans did no more than conduct an exercise. True, it was provocative. As the Japanese newspaper Akakhata then reported, the Americans were working out operations to land assault troops on Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands, make pre-emptive nuclear strikes on Soviet territory in the Far East...

The submarine's central compartment is now darkened, with only the instrument dials and the green mimic boards on the general submarine system control panel illuminated. A light is being used so that notes can be entered into the watch log. It is night on the surface and lights have been turned off so as not to bother the commander's eyes which are glued to the periscope. Thickset Ivan Petrovich seems tall and even threatening in the twilight.

People on a submarine are more closely associated with one another than in other places, they live in a more friendly manner and they associate with one another on a more simple level. By unspoken agreement, this simplicity does not extend to the commander. In addition to service reasons, in my opinion there is also a purely psychological reason. So much depends on the commander that they are simply unwilling to look at him as simply another one of the fellows.

Headquarters has still not sent receipt conformation for our report. Ivan Petrovich orders the radio operator to send out a second transmission. At the same time he has to decide whether to attack immediately or to let the "enemy" freely pass by. I do not envy Ivan Petrovich during these minutes.

It is difficult to be a commander. I can confirm this simple thought with an endless number of examples and arguments. It is an honor to be a commander and this is understandable. Military sailors do not fear difficulties and certainly have nothing against honor. But no one envies the commander... Why? Could it be because commanders are dressed down more often, removed from their position or, in extreme conditions, retained on one vessel at any cost? And that the command even tries not to release them to enter an academy? And is it possible that no one envies them because they see what a difficult road a commander must follow, not only on a service, but also on a personal level?

Ivan Petrovich got married during his last semester of school. He himself was young and his wife was just eighteen. A week later he left for his probationary cruise. The first place he served was a large island and they lived there in a cabin on a personnel ship with other young families. He was soon transferred to the Motherland and Lyubov Andreyevna happily remembers how they once bought an watermelon and how the two of them sat on a ferry. They settled in a hotel, but Ivan Petrovich immediately left on a cruise and when he returned he could not find his wife in the hotel. She was in a birthing home and had already given birth. He got a room, but did not have time to move his family, for he again left on a cruise. He returned and everything was going well. His daughter had grown, his wife was working and she had purchased furniture. He left on a cruise...

The "northern" ships were passing the submarine without being attacked and Ivan Petrovich was beginning to suffer, although he knew that he was not at fault for this. According to the concept of the exercise he could attack only after the shore had sent him a receipt for his transmission. It soon turned out that the receipt was not being held up by accident: in addition to the receipt, the submarine got orders to follow the ships to a new area and carry out another training mission.

The submarine again submerges and again makes an underwater move while the submarine body shakes from time to time like an express train car, of course without clanking at the joints. As usual, Ivan Petrovich spent the rest of the night at his folding command chair in the central compartment and in the morning we went to his cabin together to talk about literature.

He loves Simonov. Once in a bookstore he accidentally caught sight of his military diaries for a second as the saleswoman was extracting it from under the counter. The bargaining began, as a result of which in addition to the book he had to ransom every single unmarketable ticket for the book lottery.

And he also reads German. It is a shame that there is no one to talk with. His daughter teaches English. While on leave he devised a game with her. His daughter says an English word and he tries to fit a German word to it by its root consonant and they then compare the translation.

We moved from literature to politics. Here I should mention that Ivan Petrovich was a delegate to the 27th CPSU Congress.

"When I told one of my acquaintances about the congress, he said 'Ivan, you are naive -- only time will tell!' I then asked him, 'Are you a communist?' He answered, 'Yes.' 'Does this mean that you are not for capitalism?' 'Yes.' 'Then why did you decide to stay on the sidelines?'"

I asked Ivan Petrovich whether he felt himself fortunate. The commander did not answer that question.

The radio operator then brought in the just-received radiogram. The submarine was ordered to surface at a specific point to search for surface targets.

The commander was happy for me. "Now you will see the real thing. Although the unrealistic is sometimes worse than any reality."

The submarine surfaced in excellent style. And that moment when very clean, cold vital air was sucked in through the opened conning tower hatch was special. We went up to the conning bridge and the commander and I were alone there for roughly a minute.

Ivan Petrovich suddenly said, "You know, when I am very sad or very happy I say the last words from 'Chuka i Geka' to myself. Do you remember them?"

I remembered, but said that I had forgotten and the submarine commander repeated them while gazing at the horizon. "Happiness is something that everyone understands for themselves. But all people have known and understood that one must live honestly, work a lot and deeply love and protect that enormous, fortunate land that is called the Soviet Union."

The cruise continued.

12511
CSO: 1801/62

NAVAL FORCES

SEAGOING WARRANT OFFICER RETENTION PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Oct 86 p 2

[Article by Capt 2d Rank S. Turchenko: "The Seagoing Warrant Officer"]

[Text] Captain 2d Rank V. Pavlenko read the Warrant Officer A. Khvostyuk's application, sighed and reached for his pen. He was very reluctant to act on it, but what could he do? He had to look at it from Khvostyuk's standpoint: For many years his family had been moved from one strange place to another.

Khvostyuk served many years aboard the ship. He was a dependable, competent crew chief, and a competent specialist. Everyone aboard ship liked the warrant officer, and he would not have taken such a major step in his life, had his wife not been so worn out: You can wait and be patient for only so long. And the warrant officer could say nothing in return. Yes, it was true, his friends serving on shore have had their own apartments for a long time, their pay is not any less, and they get to spend their evenings with their families. Try to explain to your wife why things are not the same in your family.

Khvostyuk has two children, but there were no prospects for getting an apartment even in the remote future. No matter how much Khvostyuk loved the ship, he could not neglect his family's needs. This is why he wrote that application for transfer to shore duty. Housing was already firmly promised to him there.

Captain 2d Rank Pavlenko knew all of this quite well. But there was his side of it too: This was not the first excellent warrant officer that he would be losing. And no matter where he turned, no matter what doors he pounded on, nothing ever changed. It was always the same response: You must learn to work better with warrant officers.

Pavlenko did not sign the warrant officer's application that day. Once again he was able to postpone a decision on this vitally important issue--departure of a competent, experienced, disciplined specialist very much needed by the crew. I never learned how this story ended. Actually it's still going on. Pavlenko is looking for ways to keep the warrant officer on the ship. Khvostyuk is trying to find ways himself as well. But they aren't getting anywhere yet.

Why am I telling this story? Because Pavlenko and the Northern Fleet are not the only rather frequent victims of such situations. While ships are losing good warrant officers, everyone at all levels of authority in the fleet keeps talking about how to provide ships and vessels with competent warrant officers, but everything essentially reduces to just good intentions and appeals. What we need is real concern for their needs, concern which would stimulate an influx of the best soldiers into the warrant officer ranks, and minimize the drain of experienced warrant officers from ships. The need for such measures became obvious long ago. Just hint at the subject in the navy, especially to ship and formation commanders, and a rousing debate ensues, because the navy needs warrant officers so much, and so many contradictions have accumulated in this area.

Let me dwell once again on the worst of them (in the minds of the warrant officers themselves). Here is an indicative statistic: Fifty percent of the warrant officers sailing on the antisubmarine cruiser "Kiev" have no apartments. At the same time each warrant officer in the shore unit located not far from the moorings of the formation's ships has his own fully equipped separate apartment. Can we seriously expect that a seagoing warrant officer--one with the family all the more so--would be able to "reconcile" the romance of sea cruises with the urgent housing needs of his children and wife? Sooner or later, would he not decide to go where he senses real concern for the personal needs of servicemen, for their support. Unfortunately this unnatural phenomenon, where those who serve ashore enjoy more of the better things of life, has installed itself, unnoticeably but firmly, in some units and formations. And it affects not only warrant officers but officers as well.

I was able to talk with many warrant officers and their commanders and chiefs, and they feel that if the real demand for housing space expressed by seagoing warrant officers were to be satisfied, this would become an important stimulus encouraging them to stay with their ships. A warrant officer's cabin is part of his work area. And if it becomes the only home for not only a bachelor but also a married person for years on end, it could hardly be an inspiration to them. While shore-based warrant officers are at least offered space in a residence hall, assignment of a cabin aboard a ship to a seagoing warrant officer usually takes this privilege away from him as well.

The "quarters conflict" is perhaps the worst in the life of seagoing warrant officers. But there are others as well. In my last assignment to the Northern Fleet I talked about these other conflicts with Captain 1st Rank A. Stefanov, commander of a surface ship unit (he was recently transferred to another post).

"I am deeply convinced," the officer said, "that we need to take serious steps to raise the prestige of seagoing warrant officers; otherwise we will unavoidably have to deal with the problem of how to find good warrant officers. Let's make a simple comparison. What is the work of a seagoing warrant officer like? The work day goes from dawn to late at night. Shore leave lasts 2 or 3 days in the best case. Days off are cut short as a rule. On the other hand a shore-based warrant officer enjoys more advantageous conditions. One would think that the difference in opportunities should be

compensated by the distribution of social blessings in the fleet, which is even foreseen by some documents by the way. But in fact we often see the reverse. For the moment the shore units have better possibilities for attracting good, competent warrant officers. We on the other hand are left with young men with no families, and those whose mediocre work qualities make it hard for them to secure reasonable employment ashore. There is of course a special class of warrant officers as well, our golden fund--people who are most devoted to the sea and ships, people who would never go ashore despite all difficulties. But unfortunately there are not as many of them as one would wish. And this is understandable: Not everyone can endure something as difficult as ship service with nothing but enthusiasm and romance of the sea to keep him going. Seagoing warrant officers are a very large category of naval servicemen who work in the most complex conditions with the hardest schedules, but this is rarely taken into account when the discussion turns to the social sphere, to other incentives.

Here is the opinion held on this issue by one of the best chief boatswain's mates of the Baltic Fleet, Senior Warrant Officer V. Semenyuk:

"From my point of view there is one 'contradiction' that hinders the fastest possible development of warrant officers serving at sea. The problem is that after graduating from seagoing or shore-based warrant officer school or from naval technician school, young warrant officers are immediately awarded ratings based on their rank, and not their service record. They often get the highest rating. At the same time the experienced, competent warrant officers who had served a dozen or so years are unable to attain such a rating. A young person who has not yet shown his stuff but who immediately receives everything a warrant officer could earn sees no further stimuli--neither moral nor material--for increasing the effectiveness of his labor.

"Here is a concrete example. Warrant Officer A. Sharoyko joined our ship's electromechanical department. He was automatically awarded the highest rating in his specialty. He served 1 year, and then another. He displays no zeal for learning, for improving his indoctrination skills. He is not growing as a rated specialist. When asked why, he replies that he already has the highest rating. This is of course a morally damaging attitude. And yet it is "legalized" by the corresponding decisions. Everyone knows that the system of ranks and classes should be one where it really stimulates warrant officers to improve themselves, to undergo intensive professional growth. In my opinion it would be suitable to award the lowest rating to servicemen graduating from seagoing and shore-based warrant officer school. Then the rating could be increased only in conjunction with increases in class qualifications. And only a master warrant officer should be awarded the highest rating."

This would seem obvious, considering that even the warrant officers and commanders themselves support this idea. But somewhere higher up, all of this concern ebbs away. Perhaps life is simpler and less troublesome this way, but without real changes in the approach to the problem, it will hardly ever be solved.

I am not trying to say that Semenyuk's proposals are the ideal ones. We would of course have to leave it to the specialists to appraise their practical

significance, as well as the value of very many other proposals. But what is indicative is that there is no lack of constructive proposals on the "warrant officer problem" aboard the ships and in the units. And yet, the lack of concrete measures to solve it is so great. Once I met and talked with people of an opposite point of view. Especially following publication of the article "Master of the Upper Deck" in the 13 April 1986 issue of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. Strange as it may seem, those whose official duty it is to pose these issues and try to solve them adhere to the defunct theory that things can be improved by changing nothing. To the extent I was able to clarify, there are two principles that are the cornerstones of the warrant officer problem. First: The main cause of the "warrant officer problem" is shortcomings in the work of the seagoing and shore-based warrant officer school. The second: The best fleet commanders are able to select and train good warrant officers, which means that the entire issue rests on the educational skills of the commanders, and the problem as such does not exist.

These might appear to be serious arguments at first glance. But if we dig a little deeper we find that these "cornerstones" have far less to do with the problem than does the long-standing need for implementing measures to raise the prestige of seagoing warrant officers.

Captain 1st Rank Yu. Kippa, chief of the Northern Fleet's seagoing and shore-based warrant officer school, offered me this statistic: Most cadets that drop out voluntarily after their practical training aboard ship elect to do so because they were persuaded with their own eyes that in many cases the real work of seagoing warrant officers is significantly different from the stories they were told in the military commissariats when they were called up from the reserves. There are other figures that say something about the cadets who drop out over the entire training period. They indicate that unfortunately the school sometimes accepts applicants who are certain to fail. The school knows this, but it can do little to make any fundamental changes. The most worthy people, the kind the fleet needs, rarely apply to the school: What the school gets is those who were unable to make it in civilian life. Do we need a better selection system? Yes. But we also need to take real steps to increase the number of applications made to the school by soldiers possessing the qualities needed for a warrant officer's life. And chiefly for life aboard ship. This situation also reduces the prestige of the seagoing warrant officer. It worsens the attitude toward him in the fleet. First-term seamen (the best source of students for warrant officer school) should be able to look at their warrant officers and be sparked with the desire to become warrant officers themselves.

I have visited many ships where the "warrant officer problem" does not exist as well. Aboard the missile cruiser "Groznyy" for example. The ship commander constantly deals with this problem personally. Somehow he was able to staff his ship with good warrant officers. This is a fact. But its importance should not be overstated. The enthusiasm of a single commander is not the solution to the problem. While things have been put right for warrant officers aboard the "Groznyy," the situation has grown even more acute aboard other ships. We need equally favorable conditions for warrant officers on all ships. Only then can we expect real changes for the better.

Everyone is equally interested in providing ships with good warrant officers--from the fleet command to the ship subunit commander. Even the seamen who must serve under warrant officers. Consequently decisive measures must be taken at all levels in order to ensure that the warrant officer ranks receive worthy replacements, that every warrant officer fully satisfies the requirements imposed on him by ship service and the navy.

11004
CSO: 1801/66

NAVAL FORCES

FORMER 'NOVOROSSIYSK' CAPTAIN RECEIVES AWARD

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Nov 86 p 2

[Article by Capt 2d Rank S. Turchenko, correspondent: "Cavalier of the Order of the October Revolution"]

[Text] It is rare for a naval commander to experience the difficult but fortunate fate of taking a most direct part in building the ship upon which he is to subsequently serve. Captain 1st Rank Boris Panteleyevich Chernykh is one of those few. He was given the command of a ship still under construction--the cruiser helicopter carrier "Novorossiysk." At that time this was the latest word in Soviet ship building. People were selected for such ships on the basis of special criteria, just as for nuclear submarines: selfless men sensitive to innovations and capable of making changes in themselves, and of thinking boldly and futuristically.

Prior to this appointment Chernykh served for several years aboard torpedo and missile boats. Then he became first lieutenant aboard a large subchaser, the "Marshal Timoshenko," which was commanded at that time by Captain 2d Rank Dmitriy Pavlovich Voinov (presently a rear admiral). This officer taught Boris Panteleyevich a great deal. Together with political worker Captain 2d Rank Yu. Mirzoyanets he managed to create an atmosphere of innovation, creative enquiry and selflessness in mastery of equipment in the crew.

On being given command of the crew of a ship that still had a long way to go from the building dock to the ocean, Chernykh tried to encourage the same kind of creative atmosphere here. "We will be controlling the latest equipment, equipment of the future you might say, and this means that we must nurture within ourselves the qualities of the new man, the man of the future," said Boris Panteleyevich in his discussions with subordinates.

Learning was the first step. They pored over their textbooks and diagrams 12-15 hours a day. The equipment had not yet been installed by this time, and so the crew took a most active part in its installation. And in the course of installation, they worked out the ship's organization.

It is the duty of a commander to be the first and best authority in regard to his own ship. This is why despite all of the work he had to do just to

fulfill his responsibilities as commander, Chernykh had to devote more attention to mastering the new equipment than anyone else in the crew.

Some time later, the ship set off for a cruise. Those who serve in the navy know that the tension generated by cruise preparations drops off sharply in this period, and routine life aboard ship begins. But it is precisely in this routine, this relaxed atmosphere that a serious danger lurks: One of the crew might lose his alertness during a watch, and grow lax. To prevent this from happening, Chernykh, Captain 2d Rank R. Sokolov and Captain 2d Rank Ye. Litvinenko adopted some unusual but rather effective measures. For example they instituted what they named watch exercises. In them, men on watch took turns using actual data available to them to make decisions on tactical or technical problems and report them to the commander or his first lieutenant. This not only mobilized the men of a specific watch but also developed their creative potential. It is no surprise that ideas which materialized after careful testing as several dozen valuable efficiency proposals that raised the effectiveness with which ship equipment was used came into being in the course of such exercises.

In the course of its operation, any new mechanical contraption must undergo a short but difficult breaking-in period. During this period any parts that break down are replaced on the spot. The first long cruise of a new ship is complex precisely owing to the fact that part of this breaking-in period occurs during it; moreover the seamen making up the crew must be broken in as well. Captain 1st Rank Chernykh knew from experience that all kinds of surprises could occur at any moment. But when it entrusted the new ship to this commander, the command placed its confidence on qualities of Chernykh such as endurance, self-control and instantaneous reaction to a changing situation--that is, qualities which are especially needed during a cruise of this sort.

And in fact, there were many difficult surprises during the first cruise, but the crew managed to respond to them honorably.

Breaking in a ship such as the "Novorossiysk" is an extremely difficult task. Not only the technical but also the human scale is unique in this case. The crew is large, and each person requires attention, an individual approach. Captain 1st Rank Chernykh, his deputy for political affairs Captain 2d Rank R. Sokolov and party secretary Captain 2d Rank Ye. Golubkov managed to create just such an atmosphere in the crew.

The cruiser helicopter carrier "Novorossiysk" successfully completed the tasks of its first ocean cruise. A great and important work had been completed--a new, fabulous, powerful ship was born. Many seamen of the "Novorossiysk" were awarded orders and medals after this cruise. And it was very symbolic that Captain 1st Rank B. Chernykh, the son of a frontliner who died defending the city of revolution--Leningrad, was awarded the Order of the October Revolution.

Boris Panteleyevich is now serving in another capacity, while the crew of the cruiser helicopter carrier is continuing to successfully fulfill its mission of defending the motherland, multiplying the traditions of the Soviet Armed Forces.

MILITARY-PATRIOTIC EDUCATION IN ARKHANGELSK OBLAST

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Aug 86 p 2

[Article by Yu. Sapozhnikov, secretary of the Arkhangelsk CPSU Obkom: "It Is The Time Of Manhood"]

[Text] I had occasion to attend a meeting in the tiagan Ustyanskiy Rayon between pre-conscription youths and soldier-internationalists who had returned from Afghanistan. I remember how the young people listened with such attention and respect to the veterans who were almost as young as they.

"We have reliable weapons, but I won't hide the fact that it is not easy to serve. It was a good thing that we were hardened before entering the Army," said a lean young man with the Order of the Red Star on his chest.

"The Ustyanskiy people are a determined people with a strong spirit. They left here to fight in the Civil and Great Patriotic Wars. The celebrated sniper R. Shanina was born here and V. Zhavoronkov, one of the leaders of the heroic defense of Tula, lived here. Military prowess has always been valued here among the Ustyanskiy people and the behest to be a faithful soldier of the Fatherland is passed from fathers to their children. And here is a lad with a medal on his chest, Yuriy Zhuravlev, who worked in the local lespromkhoz [forestry industry] before being called up into the Army, who showed his worth in a difficult hour.

By the way, military-internationalist councils have already been established in several cities and rayons in the oblast. They help train young people for army service and make a worthy contribution to mass-defensive work. And in my opinion, for this to be successful there must be a closer link between propagandizing military traditions and actually training young people for military service.

There are few villages and cities in this coastal region that don't have a memorial to war heroes. There are 370 military and patriotic museums and permanent exhibitions operating in our oblast and Memorial Books containing the names of countrymen who perished have been established. And the inhabitants of the village of Semzha on the shores of the White Sea decided to rebuild the fire station to establish a museum. The lists that cover all the

walls contain both names of the fathers and grandfathers who perished and also the names of the soldiers' widows and mothers. Memorabilia and personal archives have been collected and stands have been developed. This popular museum is called the House of Memory.

Collecting remembrances from those who took part in wars has become widespread. In this same Ustyanskiy Rayon a veteran of the front-lines, F. Lyapin, has collected more than one hundred such recollections. He printed and bound them and gave them to the museum. Fedor Konstantinovich and his assistants decided to write down stories from the fifteen hundred war veterans who now live in the rayon. From these volumes of minor history are born lines of the larger history. By the way, Severo-Zapad Izdatelstvo is now prepared to publish a collection of letters from the front.

Certainly one must know and remember the steps of one predecessors. But one must also be ready for difficult military service. And the older generation is helping young people in this as well. For example, the Veterans Council of Solovetskiy School South is actively operating. Every summer the school's former students hold a traditional rally and acquaint the lads with maritime matters. Front-line veteran and military instructor A. Pokryshkin from School No. 22 has done a skillful job of preparing exercises in initial military training. Dozens of this school's graduates are doing an excellent job in their military service and many have selected the officers' profession.

One hundred and thirty teenagers have interesting and beneficial summer months in the Delfin defensive-sports camp which is in the village of Topsa on the shores of the Northern Dvina. There are so-called "difficult" children among them, but after they have donned naval uniforms, joined the ranks of the young army and experienced camp life with its numerous military rituals and additional loads, the lads mature and change for the better right before one's eyes. I will add that Delfin has enough of the required training weapons and the difficult assaults, the pulling and running competition, diving and swimming, drilling and the thrilling episodes of militarized games have a beneficial effect on the lads' health.

And the work of the Arkhangelsk DOSAAF sports and technical clubs, the ham radio, model ship and auto sports clubs, is having definite successes. The Northern Dvina Scuba Club and the Naryan-Mars Delta-Glider Club are popular. The White Sea Games program includes competition in sport orienteering, marksmanship and parachuting.

The first formal acquaintance that young people get with army life of course occurs at the military commissariate. We try to have everything there in model order and have a demanding, but at the same time respectful attitude toward the conscripts. Now, with the assistance of the local councils, local commissariates are being reequipped, veterans councils and universities for future soldiers are being established and there are legal social consultations and propaganda stations in operation.

The oblast's party committees are linked with soldiers through dozens of specific matters. Servicemen who have been selected by local council or party agency deputies are brought in to analyze mass-defensive and educational work

and to speak at seminars and in the political training system. The Orlenok and Zarnitsa military-sports games take place with assistance from servicemen. Many of the oblast's enterprises and schools are patrons for military subunits and have concluded agreements of cooperation.

All of this is really good. But in my opinion, there are also serious problems. When you visit schools, there are times when you will see a robust teenager a head taller than his military instructor having difficulties pulling himself up on the horizontal bar. And he will soon don a soldier's uniform. One should think that should this young man find himself in a difficult situation, neither strength of character or a high level of ideological training will help him carry out his military duty in a worthy manner. There is good reason for the saying, "A sound body holds a strong spirit."

Conscripts and all young people today need comprehensive physical training and special training for endurance and for mastery of military-related specialties. And this cannot be done without a training base. At the same time, in recent years the construction of firing ranges, training areas and DOSAAF training centers has increased slowly, initiatives by economic agencies and local council have essentially not been encouraged and it is taking years to construct these facilities. As a result the oblast has no modern firing ranges, biathlon tracks or aquatic sports stations. And there is an acute shortage of classrooms, structures and equipment for the sports and technical clubs.

Now that many obstacles to creating a material base for technical and military-related sports have been eliminated, the oblast has begun to accomplish its five-year plan for the construction of sports centers and other DOSAAF structures. We are planning to make maximum use of economic construction assets and are bringing in active members from the defensive societies.

Practice is supporting the fact that the time has come to expand the functions of DOSAAF committees as organizers and methodological centers for all mass-defensive work. Measures are now being taken to set up training for young people in automotive and motor repair, radio and airplane and ships modelling directly in enterprises. The advantage here is two-fold -- the teenagers' leisure time is filled and they are undergoing training both for military service and for work in the national economy. DOSAAF committees have planned to seriously adjust the training for social trainers and instructors in these mass clubs and sections. And it will undoubtedly be beneficial to more actively attract reserve officers to work in such associations.

And there are also reserves for improving mass-defensive work in further strengthening interrelationships with military subunits and propaganda directorates in the Armed Forces. We know what great work the military museums are doing in Moscow, Leningrad and several other cities. But we are their co-workers here in the north and we are seldom guests in those museums. Yet I do not recall mobile exhibits from the reserves in these museums. I would like to hear army lecturers more often and have better cooperation in the area of amateur artistic talent activities and sports.

In short, there are many reserves for improving in this matter. The age of conscription is the time of manhood for young people. We must take care that the future soldiers become stronger in body and in spirit during this period that is so critical for them. This will benefit them both in the army and in their future life.

The Eternal Flame at the Memorial to the Soldiers of Arkhangelsk is burning on the embankment of the Northern Dvina. The bronze figures of the worker, the Red Army soldier, the sailor and the partisan that are standing at the memorial to the heroes of the Civil War are stiff from the cold. There is a stern silence at the obelisk to the party members and members of the underground who perished at the hands of American and English interventionists. Ocean vessels majestically sail past and their sides bear the names of soldiers -- Yevgeniy Nikonov, Aleksandr Miroshnikov the Konstantin Korshunov.

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CSO: 1801/63

DOSAAF

DOSAAF CHIEF ON PREINDUCTION TRAINING

Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 18, Sep 86 pp 31-37

[Article by Flt Adm G. Yegorov, Hero of the Soviet Union and chairman of the USSR DOSAAF Central Committee: "To Prepare the Youth for Military Service"]

[Text] The crisp wind of the times has touched all aspects of our life. The effort to turn the energy of the party's plans into the energy of concrete practical action is taking on greater and greater scope in the labor collectives, in the military units and on the ships, in the nation's public organizations. The course set at the 27th CPSU Congress, which has rightly been called a congress of strategic decisions, has given new impetus to the acceleration of the Soviet society's social and economic development.

We are forced to travel the path of peaceful accomplishments in a situation of increased danger of war caused by imperialism, however. The CPSU Central Committee's Political Report to the 27th Party Congress points out that the world of capital has not rejected the ideology and policy of hegemonism and is not abandoning its hopes for social revenge. This makes it particularly important to maintain the nation's defense capability at the proper level.

Among the many other tasks in this area the congress indicated the need to intensify the military-patriotic indoctrination of the Soviet people, particularly the youth, to develop a preparedness to defend the socialist homeland and give one's all to it, one's life if necessary. This fundamentally important tenet determines the main direction in the work of the Volunteer Society for Cooperation with the Armed Forces.

The climate of principle, earnest and critical analysis, and great demandingness affirmed at the party congress is being established in all the DOSAAF organizations. It is helping us to operate more confidently, to reveal deficiencies more boldly and to take fuller advantage of existing reserves for successfully accomplishing such an important task as that of further improving the mass defense work.

The decree passed by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers aimed at further improving the preparation of the youth for military service orients us toward improving the style and methods of mass defense work. It calls for additional measures to raise the level of pre-induction training for the youth, to provide for their physical conditioning and to develop the military-

patriotic indoctrination. All of this is designed ultimately to ensure the manning of the Armed Forces of the USSR with young replenishments prepared to fulfill in a worthy manner their duty to protect the socialist homeland and the peaceful labor of the Soviet people.

Spiritual readiness, a preparedness for possible difficult trials, solid moral-political and psychological preparation, and a firm knowledge of the military specialty--these are the main criteria which determine the effectiveness of the military-patriotic work performed with the upcoming generation today. DOSAAF committees and organizations are organizing their work on this basis. They feel that they should focus mainly on intensifying the ideological and indoctrinal work. V.I. Lenin's behests, the demands of the CPSU and the provisions contained in the Constitution of the USSR on defending the homeland are thoroughly explained to members of the defense society. They are indoctrinated with a sense of pride in the historic accomplishments of the Soviet people, with a desire to make a contribution to the strengthening of the nation's economic and defensive might and with intolerance for bourgeois ideology and slander against the USSR and the other socialist nations.

DOSAAF members have someone to be proud of. Remember that those who have been trained in the defense society include three-time Heroes of the Soviet Union A. Pokryshkin and I. Kozhedub, Pilots-and-Cosmonauts Yu. Gagarin, V. Tereshkova and S. Savitskaya. The military feats and the remarkable achievements of DOSAAF members of all generations serve as an unfading example and are used for developing good moral-political qualities in the future fightingmen.

The DOSAAF clubs have become unique centers of this work. They actively conduct propaganda lectures, develop aids to assist propagandists who speak on military-patriotic subjects, and summarize advanced know-how in indoctrinating the youth.

A well-organized system of political training for the students has been developed at the defense society's schools and clubs. Lessons in courage, memorial watches, youth tours of sites of revolutionary, combat and labor glory of the party and the people, and participation in the "Chronicle of the Great Patriotic War" tours and in the All-Union Zarnitsa and Orlenok military-sports games, which have become traditional, are filled with profound patriotic substance. Communists who are veterans of the party and the Armed Forces take an active part in these activities. With paternal concern, they indoctrinate the youth with those ideals which helped the Soviet people to hold out in the fierce battles with the German fascist invaders and to completely defeat them.

Assistance in the form of sponsorship by army and navy collectives plays an important role in the military-patriotic indoctrination of the youth. Draftees gladly visit the units and ships and enthusiastically acquaint themselves with the life and everyday existence of the personnel, with the equipment and the weapons, with the combat glory rooms and museums. The DOSAAF organizations, in turn, warmly receive soldiers, NCOs and officers, who present talks on the Armed Forces of the USSR, on the specific features of the military service and on the feats of fightingmen who have distinguished themselves in the performance of their patriotic and international duty.

For many years the defense organization of the GPZ-4 in the city of Kuybyshev has maintained close ties with the military unit of the Northern Fleet in which Officer N. Vorobyev is a political worker. Youth at the plant have received delegations of sailors more than once. Competition has been organized in the shops for the honor of being included in a group which visits the sponsors. The best of the young plant workers are sent by the Komsomol to serve in the sponsored unit. Their letters and reports from commanders on the performance of those from Kuybyshev are skilfully utilized in the work performed with the draft-age youth.

We are enormously grateful for the ties of sponsorship with the units and ships. Most of them respond to requests from DOSAAF collectives and training organizations, help them to improve their training facilities and designate instructors, group and section leaders. For example, one of the motor-vehicle schools in Kuybyshev Oblast has long had working ties with the unit in which Officer A. Ivanov serves. All of the students at the school have repeatedly visited the military post, acquainted themselves with the pool and internal service, and observed the drivers at work in the field. Lieutenant Colonel V. Vasyutin, delegate to the 27th CPSU Congress, visited the future fightingmen and used graphic examples to show the role of military training and of moral-psychological conditioning in the successful accomplishment of the missions. Such ties of sponsorship are extremely fruitful.

We need to acknowledge, however, the fact that the ties between DOSAAF training organizations and the military units and ships are not always strong in a number of krays and oblasts. They are sometimes sporadic and are only activated during the induction of the youth into the military in the spring and fall.

Our schools and clubs receive numerous expressions of gratitude and good reports on their graduates. Unfortunately, they very rarely receive specific proposals for improving the training with a view to the tasks which they will be performing in the military. And timely recommendations from the forces would unquestionably play a positive role with respect to improving the training and indoctrination of specialists for the Armed Forces.

It is our deep conviction that the army and navy collectives could have a more comprehensive influence on the functioning of the DOSAAF organizations. A museum of labor and combat glory is set up at a plant, let us say. Its organizers request a military unit to send information on fightingmen who worked at the plant prior to being inducted into the army. Unfortunately, they do not always receive the desired assistance. This partly explains the fact that at a number of places the military-patriotic indoctrination is based almost entirely on examples from history.

The heroic past of the party, the people and the Armed Forces provides extensive material for developing patriotic feelings in the youth, of course. The fact is unquestionable, however, that the presentday life of the army and navy also needs to be shown more graphically and convincingly. The plant and school museums should have displays devoted to those soldiers, NCOs and officers who have distinguished themselves in the military service not just during the war but also in peacetime. There should be information about how the envoys from the labor or training collective are serving the homeland. Every draftee should have a firm

understanding of what his senior comrades are doing in the army, what he himself will soon be doing, and the fact that he is obligated to do it conscientiously, with an all-out effort. We believe that the commanders, political organs, party and Komsomol organizations of the units and ships should be as vigorous as possible in giving publicity to the outstanding soldiers, NCOs and officers through the defense society's organizations. This will help to better prepare the draft-age youth for the service.

Draftee days play an important role in the military-patriotic indoctrination. We can frankly say that they leave a vivid impression in the hearts of the new recruits. For example, we can say good things about Moscow's city military commissariat and DOSAAF committee, which jointly turn draftee day into an exciting celebration in the capital's Sokolniki Park of Culture and Rest. The vast Fountain Square is filled with teams of draftees from all the capital's rayons, students from the defense society's training organizations and athletes. In the center, at the speaker's platform, are war and labor veterans and representatives of the party and Komsomol aktiv. The speakers take the microphone one after another. Their words contain a mandate to the future fightingmen to serve the homeland honorably and selflessly, to work assiduously to master military affairs.

The meeting is followed by demonstrations by teams of draftees in the technical and practical military sports: competitions in firing airguns, demonstrations by model ship and airplane enthusiasts, "fox hunting" by radio enthusiasts, and a military relay race consisting of several phases--motorcycle and motor-vehicle handling, parachute packing, radiogram receiving and transmitting, and the crossing of an obstacle course.

Draftee day is also conducted in an interesting manner in Chernigov Oblast's Putivlskiy Rayon. The party raykom and the military commissariat ordinarily arrange for the traditional rayon rally of mothers whose sons serve in the army and navy to coincide with it, not long before the new draftees are seen off into the army. The assembly receives a mandate which is delivered to the future fightingmen.

In their preparation of the young people to serve in the Armed Forces, the DOSAAF organizations set themselves the specific goals of improving the youth spiritually and physically, and indoctrinating them in a spirit of Soviet patriotism and socialist internationalism and an aware regard for labor, particularly the military labor.

For the military indoctrination of the future draftees we extensively publicize the feats performed by our contemporaries in the fulfillment of their international duty in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The young people should know the names of Heroes of the Soviet Union V. Shcherbakov and Yu. Kuznetsov, R. Aushev and N. Akramov, and the feats of other fightingmen who have distinguished themselves, for example. Incidentally, they also received their basic military skills in DOSAAF organizations. Their example convinces the new recruits of the need to study military affairs thoroughly and extensively, to develop in themselves the qualities essential for combat and for victory.

Experience has shown that those young people who have received good military training at the defense society's schools and clubs settle into the formation in the army more rapidly and become highly rated specialists. This accounts for the increasing demands made of the performance of those expected to prepare the youth for the military service.

The teachers and instructors in our training organizations are made up of people with good political and technical training and with military experience. They include reserve officers, fightingmen who have served in the army or the navy and performed their international duty in the DRA. This makes it possible to ensure that the classes are conducted on a high ideological and methodological level and have a military-patriotic focus. Most of the graduates of the schools fulfill their constitutional duty in a worthy manner. It is not surprising that many schools and aviation clubs received awards during the All-Union review and competition for best organization of the training and indoctrinal process and best preparation of the youth for the military service. In recent times, for example, more than 200 DOSAAF training organizations have earned the title "Exemplary," and 52 have been awarded the names of outstanding statesmen and public figures, war and labor heroes. The very best have been awarded the Challenge Red Banners of the military councils of services of the Armed Forces, districts and fleets.

The Yerevan Joint Technical School imeni Fleet Admiral of the Soviet Union I. Isakov has held the Red Banner of the Military Council of the Air Defense Forces for the second year in a row. It trains radar operators. In the military units its graduates operate the combat equipment skilfully and rapidly become highly rated specialists.

Alma-Ata's DOSAAF Air-Sports Club has achieved good results for a number of years. Bearing in mind that the foundation for success is laid on the ground, the permanent personnel and students have built a modern training facility there, and exercises using a trainer are smoothly organized. Based on the results of the 1984-85 training year, the aviation club was one of the first in the nation to be declared exemplary.

Influenced by the party's aims, the DOSAAF committees, schools and clubs are presently seeking reserves for fully realizing the defense society's extensive possibilities, and the military focus of the training and indoctrinal process is being intensified. For example, the schools have resolved the problem of providing the students with basic practice in firing a submachine gun. Military skills, military sharpness and discipline are developed in the training.

But does the training of the future armed defenders measure up to the modern demands at all of our training organizations? Unfortunately, it does not. For last year's performance a number of DOSAAF schools of the Buryat ASSR, Perm and Yaroslavl oblasts were given unsatisfactory ratings for the training of drivers. The plan for training technical specialists from among the draftees was not fulfilled in Ryazan Oblast. An inspection has shown that more than one third of the students at the motor-vehicle schools there have weak practical skills in operating vehicles in difficult terrain. More than half of the students could not meet the GTO [ready for work and defense] norms, and did not confirm their ability to meet the norms for firing a small-caliber rifle.

What is the main cause of the fact that individual schools and clubs conduct the training of draftees with indulgences and simplifications? It is primarily the fact that a number of DOSAAF organizations are slow to effect positive changes. They demonstrate inertia and adherence to obsolete forms of work. The practice of assessing the situation on the basis of quantity, which was resolutely condemned at the congress, has taken root also in the mass defense work. Certain leaders have not rid themselves of passivity and complacency, and do not analyze their work in a demanding manner, which invariably leads to failures in the work. This occurred at the radio-technical school where T. Etminovich is the chief. Its leaders have recently relaxed their attention to the training process and closed their eyes to "petty" deficiencies, which has ultimately resulted in serious omissions in the training of the students.

The effectiveness of the mass defense work also depends to a significant degree upon the military commissariats. We believe that they could assist the DOSAAF organizations more actively. They sometimes inadequately examine the process of training the draftees and do not concern themselves enough with the class attendance rate at the defense society's schools and clubs. In Arkhangelsk and Murmansk oblasts, for example, some military commissariats do nothing more than turn over to the schools hastily formed groups of draftees, and show almost no interest in how their training goes. And class attendance does not exceed 60 percent at certain schools. The practice whereby the military commissariat sends a student who has trained at a DOSAAF school as a radar operator to a motor-vehicle unit, or vice versa, is a harmful one. This actually occurs.

Life demands that not just the defense society's training organizations, but all of its organizations step up their work of providing the youth with military job orientation and training. They have been set up in almost all the labor collectives, at higher and secondary specialized educational institutions, general education schools, vocational and technical schools. Training centers, defense groups and sections operate at many plants and rural rayon centers with the aid of DOSAAF committees. The draftees acquire the specialties of radio telegraphist, motorcycle operator, parachutist and other specialties there.

Something should be said about the work performed with the student youth in particular. Our society's committees and clubs have assumed sponsorship over many general education schools and are doing everything possible to help get the students, particularly the upper-grade students, involved in classes on military affairs and in the technical and practical military sports. The establishment of groups for training the youth in the more common military specialties at general education schools, teknikums, vocational and technical schools is a priority task.

This is done primarily by the military instructors, who are ordinarily the chairmen of school DOSAAF committees. The level of the basic military classes also depends upon them. It is therefore very important for them to have good professional training themselves. This has not been achieved everywhere, however. A study of the situation in the Uzbek, Turkmen and Kirghiz SSRs, for example, has shown that the DOSAAF organizations have not worked very hard at a number of general education schools. It was learned that slightly more than half of the military instructors are reserve officers, while the rest are former soldiers and NCOs, some of whom parted with the military service a long time ago and are not adequately familiar with the contemporary state of military affairs. Absolutely

the correct thing is being done where this category of leaders are involved in training assemblies in the military units or are trained from among former junior commanders and reserve officers. This experience deserves not only support, but extensive dissemination.

Ties between our clubs and the student bodies have grown closer in recent years. The aviation club of which Yu. Safonov is the chief has sponsored the Vorotynets Secondary School for a number of years. Club instructors and trainees frequently address the students, tell in an interesting manner about the Armed Forces and the romantic aspect of the military service, and conduct classes in the groups and sports sections. The school children build model airplanes and gliders, study radio, operate telegraphs and learn to fire a small-caliber rifle and a pistol. A young cosmonauts' club has been established at the school. At the aviation club, the children train on special training gear: a treadmill (loping) and a trampoline. All of the work performed with the school children is precisely oriented. It is not surprising that 10 of that school's graduates entered military schools in 1985 or that all of those drafted for active military duty have been outstanding in the combat and political training.

It is important to involve the youth in regular classes in the technical and practical military sports. These get them used to the equipment and develop in them dexterity, stamina and skill. The defense society has good traditions in sports. Our graduates--pilots and parachutists, car racers, ship- and airplane-model builders--have distinguished themselves more than once in intense sports meets at the international level. In the air sports alone, 512 of 1,141 world records are held by sportsmen of the USSR DOSAAF. This evokes a sense of pride and helps to involve the youth in the mass sports movement. Automobile and motorcycle competitions, water, air, gun and radio sports are becoming more and more popular.

As they fulfill the decree passed by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers "On Further Increasing the Mass Nature of Physical Culture and Sports," many DOSAAF training and sports organizations have begun devoting greater attention to the technical and practical military sports. Marksmanship, militarized cross-country racing and swimming have been made a mandatory part of the competition programs.

Unfortunately, we have not yet succeeded in getting truly mass participation in certain technical and practical military sports. We have been hindered primarily by a lack of training facilities and by poor organizational work. Certain DOSAAF committees and air sports clubs have still not reorganized in the spirit of the times, and their workers talk but do not take specific steps to organize things. They frequently "drown" in a sea of paperwork. Certain leaders of sports federations, instructors and trainers emphasize goals, points and seconds and do not concern themselves with replenishing the ranks of the sportsmen from among the draft-age and predraft youth.

The padding of figures in reports and deception in sports are doing enormous harm. We sometimes find that according to the records a draftee has met the GTO norms and become a rated sportsman, but when he gets to the horizontal bar, he cannot chin himself three times. According to the records, all of the draftees in the Buryat ASSR and Irkutsk Oblast had met the GTO norms. However, an inspection

showed that only half of them could destroy a target with a small-caliber rifle with certainty and that many of them had poor skills in tossing grenades. Padding records is immoral always and in all things, but it is particularly intolerable in such an important matter as that of strengthening the nation's defense capability. We have been holding the falsifiers more strictly accountable since the party congress, and this is producing good results.

Now, I would like to say something about the following. A large number of soldiers and NCOs released into the reserve after completing their service join the DOSAAF organizations each year. Many of them, having received excellent conditioning and skills in public work in the army, immediately involve themselves in the affairs and concerns of the labor collectives. The defense society committees attempt to fill up their aktiv with these people. Unfortunately, some of them take little part in mass defense activities. In Kirghizia, for example, only about one fifth of those released into the reserve work with the predraft youth. Who but they, one would think, those who know the military service with all of its difficulties, should pass on their military know-how to the youth. Their example is of particular importance for the future fightingmen, after all.

In summary, I would note that we still have many unresolved problems and "bottle-necks." There is something to think about in order to make the mass defense work more effective. The times require that we and all of the Soviet people work creatively, with maximum energy, not flatter ourselves with the results we have achieved and constantly look toward the future. DOSAAF is going to be even more active in helping the party to further strengthen the nation's defense capability, to indoctrinate the Soviet youth and prepare them to defend the socialist homeland.

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CSO: 1801/56

DOSAAF

BRYANSK DOSAAF OFFICIAL ON PREINDUCTION TRAINING

Moscow ZA RULEM in Russian No 11, Nov 86 p 3

[Interview with Bryansk Oblast DOSAAF Committee Chairman A. I. Mikheyev by correspondent N. Romanovich; date and place not specified]

[Text] The youngster begins preparing for army service long before the military commissariat sends him his induction notice. He gets his first impressions of the most important constitutional duty of every Soviet citizen and learns the rudiments of military affairs in secondary school, in vocational-technical school, at the enterprise and in the kolkhoz. Party, soviet and Komsomol organs, military commissariats, DOSAAF organizations, peoples education detachments, school military instructors and war veterans take part in his development as a citizen and patriot, as a future defender of the motherland. This is why the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers decree on improving preparation of young people for service in the armed forces, adopted in June of this year, poses the task of raising such preparation to a higher qualitative level before all organizations and departments participating in this work.

Our correspondent, N. Romanovich, discussed how this decree is being implemented with Bryansk Oblast DOSAAF Committee Chairman A. I. Mikheyev.

[Question] Anatoliy Ivanovich, the oblast DOSAAF organization is firmly in the lead in the effort to prepare young inductees for military service. This is the way it should be. After all, Bryansk Oblast is rich with military traditions; just one of its flying clubs gave the country 20 heroes of the Soviet Union. Let's talk in greater detail about how success is being achieved today.

[Answer] Let me respond by saying frankly that we associate our successes chiefly with the attention which the oblast party committee and its first secretary, A. F. Voystrochenko, devote to mass defense work. We constantly sense the support of the oblast party committee.

Take as an example the important personnel problem. We select the chiefs of technical, motor vehicle and other schools very carefully, and the detachment director of the party oblast committee mandatorily interviews all candidates for such positions. Sometimes it happens that the person we need is not

released by his place of work. Then the problem is resolved at the level of the oblast committee secretaries, and in our favor as a rule. Party organs also display this same interested attitude toward strengthening the material-technical base of the oblast DOSAAF organization.

A decision to erect a new aviation sports complex in Bryansk at an estimated cost of 1.2 million rubles has already been made. Next in the plans is a sports complex on the bank of the Desna, which is where we intend to move the rifle club and all of the city's DYuSTSh [not further identified], presently located in makeshift quarters.

[Question] I can see from what you say that the oblast attaches serious significance to technical sports.

[Answer] Yes, that's so. Our DOSAAF sports are held in high esteem in Bryansk Oblast. A year ago the secretariat of the Bryansk Oblast CPSU Committee adopted a special decree on their further development. In compliance with it, each rayon must become the center of some technical or military applied form of sports. Motorcycle race tracks will be built in Brasovskiy, Zhukovskiy and Trubchevskiy rayons. Such a track has already been created in Bezhitskiy Rayon. Our sportsmen train here, and after the finishing touches, it could also be used for national competition.

Go-cart tracks are being built in Dyatkovskiy, Dubrovskiy and Kletnyanskiy rayons, and in the city of Novozybkov. Kordodromy [translation unknown] are being built in Pogarskiy, Unechskiy and some other rayons.

Special mention should be made of rifle sports. One hundred seventy-five shooting galleries were opened in the past five-year plan in the oblast. There is one in every DOSAAF school and in most secondary schools, even rural ones. In Klintsovskiy Secondary School for example, military instructor L. Lavrinov acquaints children with marksmanship as early as in the fourth grade. In this five-year plan 11 new secondary schools for more than a thousand students each will be built in Bryansk, and each will have its own 50-meter shooting gallery.

And in DOSAAF schools, where inductees learn their future military specialty, beginning this year they will participate in exercises with submachine guns using live ammunition. Fire training at facilities of sponsoring military units is also being organized.

[Question] ZA RULEM has carried several articles on the good things Bryansk schools training future military drivers are doing. What makes it possible for the oblast to train such capable replacements for the army?

[Answer] In the army, the success of combat and the lives of a driver's friends often depend on how competent and how well trained the driver is. This means that we must teach him his specialty in conditions that best recall those encountered in the army. We have always tried to achieve this. But today this is no longer something we would like to do—it is something we must do.

[Question] To what extent is this need being satisfied by the training materials available to DOSAAF schools, and most importantly by what we refer to as their main classrooms--the driving ranges?

[Answer] They are being constantly improved, expanded, and filled with things that create unexpected situations for the driver, and a possibility for learning how to interact with the complex environment which surrounds him on the roads today.

In Bryansk we have two schools specializing in motor vehicles: We train truck-mounted crane driver-mechanics in the technical school, and motor vehicle and armored personnel carrier drivers in the combined technical school. Before, we shared a driving range. To be more accurate it belonged to the technical school, and the lack of space at the combined technical school was clearly evident. Erection of a new driving range for the combined technical school is now nearing completion. It has an area of 15 hectares, and its estimated cost is 500,000 rubles. These figures alone clearly indicate what sort of project this is. All of its fixtures will be electrified and operated from a command post. A military driver classroom will be located next door.

The area of the driving range permits installation of a motor pool, which will obviously be done in the future. Then we won't have to shuttle the vehicles from the school to the driving range, and although the distance is not all that great--just 1.5 kilometers, operating expenses will decrease noticeably and we will save fuel.

All of the construction efforts were supervised by V. Krysin, deputy chief of the combined technical school. He has given 20 years to the school; he started out as a master mechanic. A water obstacle for APCs is being erected at the driving range at his suggestion: A concrete-lined basin will be filled with water, and APCs will have to cross it on the move. Overall, this is a man distinguished by initiative, ability and the greatest dedication. The Order of the Red Labor Banner that was recently awarded to V. Krysin attests to that.

The driving range of the other technical school in Bryansk is our pride: It is rightfully thought of as one of the best in the country. It has a permanently operating practice range filled with complex electronic systems. The situations created during lessons develop the habits and the moral and psychological qualities needed of future drivers. A child running into incoming traffic is simulated in one situation. In another, the cadet has just a few seconds to decide how to avoid colliding with a vehicle appearing suddenly from behind an oncoming personnel carrier. Yes, we use a real vehicle, though a junked one of course.

Road signs operated from the command post can change the direction of movement. Then suddenly a torrent of water strikes the windshield: The instructor sitting beside the cadet has turned on a device with which each vehicle is equipped.

Instructors and mechanics from many of the country's cities come to this driving range to absorb some of its training experience. This has been the site of military-technical training rallies for oblast DOSAAF committee deputy chairmen.

[Question] But this is in Bryansk, in a large industrial city. What are things like in the countryside? Sometimes the difference between city schools and remote rural schools can be extremely significant.

[Answer] Take as an example Zhukovka motor vehicle school. It happens to be an exemplary school. I would like to lay special emphasis on the fact that the school as a whole, its driving range and the cadet dormitory were all built through local resources, with the active assistance of local party and soviet organs.

The driving range here is smaller--just 4 hectares, but it is outfitted with all of the necessary fixtures, including ones that create unexpected situations--slipping of a wheel, a man on the road, blinding headlights. A forest road that begins just beyond the fence winds for 4 kilometers of ruts, mud, sand and marshland. There is a deep rut that fills with water when it rains, and it is not all that easy to surmount.

The cadets learn to use antiskidding and self-extraction resources. For example they are shown how to make wheel mats out of available materials and wire, and how to use chocks on mountain roads: Concrete slabs were secured to a hill for this purpose. The next thing on the drawing boards is to set up an obstacle at which to practice passing an oncoming vehicle on a narrow mountain road. The collective also thinks it might be a good idea to teach the cadets how to negotiate a hairpin curve on a mountain road. Where could one be found? There is a suitable ravine along our 100-kilometer route. We hope to build a hairpin curve on its slopes.

Night driving is now practiced everywhere. But we went a step further: We equipped all of our motor vehicle schools with the night vision instruments the army uses. Thus every future military driver now has a possibility for acquainting himself with them directly, and persuade himself that a vehicle could be driven in darkness just like in daylight.

During their 100-kilometer march the cadets learn to use vehicle decontamination equipment, which they discussed earlier in general military training lessons. They travel part of the route in gas masks, and they participate in training combat using dummy submachine guns. And patrols armed with submachine guns guard the column at the halting place.

In a word, we do not work with the idea that the army will teach the cadets what we neglected to teach. A soldier goes into the army to serve, and he must be ready to meet the enemy fully armed at any moment. Teaching the inductee military affairs as well as possible, and providing him with a military-technical specialty is what we see as our main tasks as DOSAAF workers, tasks which were posed in the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers decree on improving the preparation of young people for military service.

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FOREIGN MILITARY AFFAIRS

EAST ASIA'S ROLE IN U.S. STRATEGY DISCUSSED

Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 19, Oct 86 pp 84-88

[Article by Lt Col V. Solovyev, candidate of Historical Sciences, under the rubric "The Modern World: Problems, Trends, Conflicts": "The Links in the Militaristic Chain: The USA's Aggressive Intrigues in the Asian-Pacific Region"]

[Text] Increasing importance is being attached to the Asian-Pacific region in the global, hegemonistic policy of imperialistic circles in the USA. Describing the military-political situation which has developed there, Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stressed in his talk at Vladivostok that "militarization and the growing military threat in this part of the world are beginning to accelerate dangerously."

The American administration regards this region as one of three (along with Europe and the Near East) "vitally important strategic zones." This is because, from the standpoint of the Pentagon strategists, the Far East and the Pacific Ocean basin as a whole provide a convenient staging area for inflicting a nuclear missile strike against important economic and defense facilities of the Soviet Union and other socialist nations. Having entangled the Far East region in a network of military agreements and having deployed numerous troops on the territories of allied nations, the Pentagon constantly keeps East Asia in its sights.

People in Washington, with their great-power, imperial arrogance, consider the entire Pacific Ocean to be America's empire and assert that the border of the USA runs more than 5,000 miles to the west of the Golden Gate in San Francisco. The second largest military grouping has been deployed there. It numbers 474,000 men, around 150 combat ships and more than 1,100 combat aircraft. Military strategy is the basis of the Reagan Administration's Pacific strategy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State G. Armitage has said. He openly stated: "How important the Pacific region is to the USA can be judged from the fact that the region accounts for five of the eight military pacts in which the United States is a participant."

The USA is counting on dragging its allies into its aggressive policy in the Far East. Military commitments link Washington with Japan, its main partner in East Asia, and also with South Korea, relatively strong militarily, and the Philippines. The Pentagon has used Taiwan, an inseparable part of China's territory, as a staging area for more than 30 years now. Although the number of American

troops on Taiwan was reduced at the end of the '70s, the USA has maintained its military presence there. After an insignificant interval, representatives of the Pentagon have appeared once again in Thailand to turn that nation's territory into its military base.

Great importance is attached to Japan in the aggressive plans of the USA. Deputy Defense Secretary West has defined it as "the keystone in the American forward basing strategy in one of the regions of Asia." The USA has presently established more than 200 military installations on the Japanese islands, including modern airbases like Yokota and Kadena. The oversea naval forces also use Japanese naval bases and ports, including Yokosuka, Sasebo and others.

The island of Okinawa has become a sad symbol of the American military presence on Japanese soil. It is literally stuffed with U.S. troops and military equipment, and ranges covering more than 20 percent of the area. Marine units and special-purpose troops (Green Berets) are deployed there, prepared to protect the imperial interests of the United States as a "firefighting team" in any region of the world. A large quantity of weapons is also concentrated on Okinawa, designated for the deployment of additional American divisions in case of wars large and small which the Pentagon intends to unleash over a vast territory from the Persian Gulf to Alaska.

Drawing Japan more and more actively into the orbit of its aggressive Far East policy, the American administration is thereby attempting to resolve a number of its foreign and domestic political problems. They include, first and foremost, that of reducing outlays for maintaining reactionary, pro-American regimes in Asia and the costs involved in stationing U.S. troops in that region (with a corresponding shift of those costs onto the shoulders of its Asian partner), as well as the transfer of some of the secondary functions in the operational activities.

Expressing the new view on Japan's place in Washington's Pacific plans, White House leaders persistently maintain that while previously that nation was "the United States' junior partner," the situation has now fundamentally changed. The USA and Japan are now the capitalist world's two largest industrialized powers. The following view on Tokyo's role began to dominate in American ruling circles in the '80s: "Japan is not merely the keystone in our Asian policy, but also our main partner in the world arena."

The American strategists take into account in their calculations the fact that Japan has large military formations along with its powerful economic base. The Japanese armed forces number around a quarter of a million and can be deployed into an army of more than a million within a short time. Furthermore, it recently became known that, contrary to the constitution, preparations are underway in the nation for providing the armed forces with their own nuclear weapons. The creation of a "rapid deployment" force has begun.

Since the beginning of the '80s, Washington has considerably stepped up its efforts to draw Japan into its strategy in the Far East. It has enlarged Tokyo's military commitments, imposing upon it a "zone of military responsibility" to a radius of 1,000 miles from Japanese shores, and proposed that it assume control over a 'blockade of three strategic straits"--Korea, Tsugaru and La Perouse--for purposes of "repelling attacks from the north" and "destroying submarines."

The signing at the end of 1984 of a Japanese-American protocol on joint combat operations by the armed forces of the two nations in "emergencies" was a logical extension of the White House's policy of drawing Japan into the U.S. military strategy in the Asian-Pacific region. General Watanabe, Chairman of the Joint "Self-Defense" Chiefs of Staff, called this an "epic" event, since it serves as a "foundation" for the further strengthening of the Tokyo-Washington axis.

Japan's democratic circles assessed the event differently. The newspaper AKAHATA, for example, called the protocol on joint combat operations with the Americans "a program for drawing the nation into war." One cannot but agree with this. The signing of the Japanese-American protocol markedly enlarged the framework of military cooperation between the USA and Japan. It opens up the way for interaction between command elements of the two nations' armed forces in the development of corresponding plans and calls for the establishment of new agencies to coordinate their implementation, as well as for the use by the armed forces of the USA and Japan, in addition to the bases at their disposal, of numerous other facilities for conducting operations in the Far East.

For just what objectives and against whom are Washington and Tokyo building up their military efforts? Exhaustive answers to these questions are provided by the annual meetings between heads of government of the USA and Japan and by the practical activities of the forces in the Pacific region. Having set out on a course of mutual cooperation in the military field, militaristic circles of the United States and Japan are conducting intensive campaigns involving the fabrication of rumors and conjectures about "a growth of Soviet military power" and about an alleged "threat" to Japan from the socialist nations. Against this background, more and more persistent appeals are being made for military integration with a clearly expressed anti-Soviet orientation.

Meetings between leaders of the Pentagon and the Japan Defense Agency (UNO) also have anti-Soviet substance. The American generals unvaryingly pressure Japan with respect to two groups of problems: how much it is to increase its military-political commitments to protect the imperialist interests, and the matter of considerably increasing Japan's military capability. And all of this is directed into the channel of the anti-Soviet strategy. It is a revealing fact that the number of joint American-Japanese military exercises at sea, in the air and on land in direct proximity to the borders of the Soviet Union and other socialist nations has grown considerably of late. They are provocative. The objective of the Rimpac-86 exercise held in the summer of this year in the Pacific Ocean was openly proclaimed as that of preparing for combat operations against the Soviet Navy, for example. More than 50 warships and 250 aircraft of the USA, Japan, England, Canada and Australia took part in it. Military maneuvers by ground forces of the USA and Japan have been a regular event since 1982.

It is not just the number of military exercises which is increasing, but the scope of the interaction as well. The first Japanese-American command post exercise is planned for the fall of 1986. Overall command of the exercise is assigned to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the Japanese side and to the commander of U.S. forces on the Japanese islands on the American side. The staffs of Japan's ground forces, air force and navy, and the staffs of American ground forces (the Izama base), air forces (Yokota) and naval forces (Yokosuka) are to be involved in the exercise.

It is planned during the military games to practice the operations covered by the protocol on joint American-Japanese combat operations. It is not just a matter of maneuvers, however. The entire American-Japanese collaboration is being raised another step on the militaristic ladder. It is becoming more and more dangerous and clearly demonstrates that the Japanese military is being integrated into the aggressive NATO bloc.

Examining Washington and Tokyo's military games, AKAHATA, the newspaper of the Japanese Communists, has arrived at the irrefutable conclusion that all of this is directed toward preparing for a war with the Soviet Union and other socialist nations in Asia and suppression of the national liberation movement.

The United States' claims on Japanese electronics, which are used in spacecraft in the Shuttle system, designated for militarizing space and preparing for wars in the "sixth ocean," are also in keeping with the adventuristic ideas for achieving military superiority.

The new technical developments which members of the U.S. military industry would particularly like to acquire include discoveries by the Japanese in the fields of laser technology and fiber optics, and achievements by Japanese engineers in the use of new, high-speed microprocessors in missile guidance systems. The Japanese military industry plans in the '90s to produce missile equipped with computers with "artificial intelligence," which will recognize their target and adjust their flight path without outside guidance. Because of this, the Pentagon has brought Tokyo into the infamous SDI, which involves plans for preparing for "star wars."

In relying on the use and enlargement of the military capabilities of the Land of the Rising Sun, American imperialism and international reaction have the objective of making Japanese militarism the underling of the USA and NATO in the conduct of the imperialist bloc policy in the Asian-Pacific zone. Commenting on a Pentagon report on military-political problems of 1983, the newspaper MAINICHI noted that it clearly stated for the first time: "Japan has the same sort of relations of military alliance with the United States as do the NATO nations."

In accordance with these aims, it is planned to establish a so-called "collective security system" in the region as one of the elements of a "joint defense of states in the Western alliance." In other words, the intensification of Japan's military role is linked to calculations that its ruling circles will be the organizers of new military-political blocs. The USA and other NATO nations are thereby attempting to encircle the socialist states even more solidly with a ring of militaristic alliances. What we have is an attempt by the imperialist powers, relying upon Japan, to justify a "NATO Far East flank" and to entangle the Asian-Pacific zone in a network of reactionary military blocs.

Among the new blocs one could mention first of all NEATO (Northeast Asia Treaty Organization) and PATO (Pacific Treaty Organization, or Pacific Community). In addition, plans are being hatched up for expanding the military capabilities of the ANZUS bloc. It is planned to organize the NEATO bloc on the basis of a "Far East triangle": USA-Japan-South Korea. Ruling circles of the United States consider bilateral military agreements with these nations to be "an inseparable part" of its Asian military-political course and, relying upon them, count on laying the foundation for a new military-political alliance in Asia.

The Indian newspaper NATIONAL HERALD has stated in connection with this: "An attempt to create an eastern NATO twin, which would operate in the Pacific Ocean as a branch of the aggressive North Atlantic bloc, has been and remains a part of the Reagan strategy for achieving global supremacy. The trilateral alliance of the United States, Japan and South Korea is being established for this purpose. Its cutting edge is directed against the national liberation movement on the Asian continent and has the objective of strengthening imperialist positions in the region."

Relying on bilateral military agreements with a number of states in Asia, primarily Japan and South Korea, the Pentagon thus intends to link its allies with mutual responsibility, to unite them into a military bloc into which will be drawn states in the Asian-Pacific region which have no direct military connections with the USA.

A role of no small importance is assigned to South Korea in the U.S. strategy. Reagan has defined it as being of "pivotal importance to the situation throughout Northeast Asia and also very important to the security of the United States."

Alleging a "military threat" on the part of the Soviet Union and the DPRK, the United States is building up its military presence in South Korea, where the second largest American grouping of forces (around 40,000 men) in the Near East is located. They have at their disposal more than 100 military installations. The headquarters of the 8th Field Army, the 1st Joint Army Corps and the 4th Rocket Artillery Command are located in South Korea. The Pentagon has concentrated more than 1000 units of nuclear ammunition there. The chief of staff of the U.S. Army has stated that "if necessary" the American armed forces in South Korea would not stop at using them. Since 1982, Washington has stepped up its military activities in the southern part of the Korean peninsula: the naval forces have been doubled, and modern F-15 and F-16 combat aircraft and A-10 attack planes have been deployed at air bases at Osan, Kunsan and Taegu.

U.S. attempts to draw Japan into military-political collaboration with the South Korean regime have the support of official Tokyo. Washington has practically gotten Japan to include South Korea among its "forward areas of defense." As Ya. Nakasone stated during his visit to Seoul in 1983, ties with South Korea "are essential to the security of East Asia, including Japan." Proceeding from this premise, Japan and South Korea are moving toward the practical realization of the American concept of a "trilateral pact," or, in other words, toward the establishment of a militaristic alliance in the Far East and the Pacific Ocean region.

South Korea and Japan are continuing to perfect the machinery of interaction, which embraces various political, economic and military areas. Conferences are held each year at the foreign minister level. The so-called parliamentary council on security, established in 1979, plays an important role in Japanese-Korean military-political cooperation. During the meetings, representatives of Tokyo and Seoul reconfirm "the need for bilateral cooperation in security matters." In other words, they are "linked by a common strategic destiny"--that is, they are the Pentagon's trusted underlings in East Asia.

Preparations are being made to implement the plans. Each year the Japan Defense Agency sends staff representatives of the ground, naval and air forces to South

Korea to acquaint themselves with bases and other military installations of the South Korean army. In 1983 the UNO sent a large group of Japanese officers to Seoul to learn about the training process at South Korea's military educational institutions. Highly placed UNO officials regularly visit South Korea to learn about military research. South Korean military officials visit Japan.

In order to speed up the process of putting together the aggressive triple bloc, the Pentagon is expanding joint American-South Korean and American-Japanese exercises with the same scenarios and themes. Large-scale maneuvers by American and South Korean forces, code-named "Team Spirit," are conducted from 1 February to mid-April, for example (these exercises were made an annual event in 1976 following the proclamation of the aforementioned "Pacific doctrine"). American military installations in Japan, its air bases, naval ports and communications posts are used for moving troops, transporting weapons and concentrating them in direct proximity to the borders of the socialist nations. More than 210,000 servicemen were involved in this exercise in 1986.

Japanese military observers have attended the "Team Spirit" exercises since 1984. Joint exercises by Japanese and U.S. air forces have been conducted simultaneously during this period. Around 300 combat aircraft took part in the 1984 exercise. The scenarios for the exercises with South Korea and Japan are the same: "repelling a threat from the north" with "preventive strikes." This reveals their provocative nature and the fact that they are directed toward preparing for combat operations against the socialist states.

The idea of establishing the Pacific Community, subsequently transformed into a "Pacific economic cooperation" project, also demonstrates the fact that the USA and Japan have stimulated their bloc policy in the region. These concepts were developed in Tokyo and received the support of the American administration, which sees in them primarily an opportunity to unite the NATO and ANZUS blocs and Washington's bilateral alliances with Tokyo and Seoul into a single military chain, while at the same time making the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which consists of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Brunei, an accomplice in the imperialist intrigues. Among other things, the Pentagon has more than a dozen military installations in addition to the two huge bases--Subic Bay Naval Base and Clark Field Air Base--in the Philippines. American forces numbering up to 11,000 men are located there.

The Pentagon is attempting to increase the number of links in the bloc chain by drawing member-nations of regional organizations into military exercises under its aegis. Beginning this year, for example, the American forces have begun periodically conducting the "Cobra Gold" joint military maneuvers with the Thai army in direct proximity to the border with Cambodia. More than 10,000 servicemen and a large quantity of combat equipment are involved in them. Around 1,500 Japanese servicemen took part in military exercises in the Philippines for the first time in 1986. The Pentagon is thereby helping to take the Japanese army beyond the national borders, which is contrary to that nation's constitution, and has unequivocally demonstrated that it is proclaiming the Japanese militarists to be something like its proxies.

The USA has numerous bases in Micronesia. A large air base has been built on the island of Guam, for example. Together with American Air Force installations

on Okinawa (Japan), it constitutes a "Pentagon bridge" for active military interference in the affairs of the peoples of East Asia. There are also American military bases and installations on the islands of Wake, Midway, Johnston, Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Bikini and others. Two more bases (a naval and an air base) are being built on the island of (Tinkan).

"American interests" in the western part of the Pacific are protected by the 7th Fleet, which consists of several aircraft-carrier formations and more than 20,000 men. Operating from Pacific bases, it is "making itself at home" more and more actively in the waters of the Indian Ocean. It is planned to reinforce the naval grouping in the western part of the Pacific with the U.S. 3rd Fleet, which also has several aircraft-carrier formations, 30 nuclear-powered submarines and 550 combat aircraft.

Taking over the western part of the Pacific, the Pentagon has created more than 300 military bases near the Far East borders of the USSR and other socialist nations, and deployed up 150,000 servicemen there. Preparations for and the deployment of medium-range nuclear missiles in East Asia have been underway since 1984. During the first phase, ships of the 7th Fleet are being outfitted with 375 sea-based Tomahawk cruise missiles to supplement the 400 units of nuclear ammunition.

The "military assistance" channel is extensively used for the entanglement of the militaristic chain. It has amounted to the following for the ASEAN nations: the Philippines, 180 million dollars; Thailand, 100 million; Indonesia, 43 million; Malaysia, 11 million dollars. And so, the Far East and adjacent waters of the Pacific are being turned an area of concentration of armed forces and weapons through the efforts of ruling circles of the USA. All of this, along with the feverish hammering together of new aggressive blocs, is exacerbating tensions and increasing the risk of military conflicts.

Imperialism's aggressive policy is opposed by the peace-loving course of the USSR and the other nations of the socialist commonwealth. Our nation's extension of the unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions to 1 January 1987 is extremely important. The decision was announced in the statement by M.S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on Soviet television on 18 August 1986.

The socialist nations have recently advanced a number of constructive initiatives also on various aspects of Asian security. An extensive, realistic program for establishing a comprehensive system of security and peaceful interaction in the Asian-Pacific region was advanced in Comrade M.S. Gorbachev's speech at Vladivostok. In addition to the nuclear disarmament program, the USSR proposed discussing measures of trust in the Far East. The Mongolian People's Republic proposed concluding a convention of mutual nonaggression and renouncement of force among the states of Asia and the Pacific Ocean basin. Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia have consistently advocated turning Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability and cooperation, and the establishment of good-neighbor relations with the ASEAN states. The government of the DPRK has advanced a number of constructive initiatives aimed at accelerating the peaceful, democratic unification of Korea, reducing the military confrontation on the Korean peninsula and eliminating the nuclear threat.

The forces of imperialism do not wish to consider the demands of the world's peoples, however. The USA and its accomplices continue to prepare for military adventures. If this development of events in a region where the interests of many of the world's states converge and are interwoven is not halted, it can lead to serious exacerbation of tensions in the Asian-Pacific region.

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CSO: 1801/58

AFGHANISTAN

INSURGENT BASE IN NANGAHAR PROVINCE DESTROYED

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Nov 86 p 5

[Article by D. Meshchaninov: "A Powerful Blow by the Afghan Army: A Major Insurgent Base Destroyed"]

[Text] Kabul: Fierce fighting went on for three days in Marulgad Gorge, Nangahar Province.

Here in an inaccessible mountain region, just a kilometer from the Pakistani border, insurgents created a well fortified, well equipped transloading base. In summer, motor vehicle columns carrying weapons, ammunition, food and medicines traveled the dirt road connecting the gorge to Pakistan. In winter, the counterrevolutionaries were supplied by pack animals. From here, everything necessary for the undeclared war against Afghanistan was ferried in by secret trails under the cover of night.

The insurgents had plans to settle down for a long time in Marulgad Gorge. A storage dump and living quarters supplied with electricity from a diesel generator were set up in a deep cave. Constant radio communication was maintained with Peshawar, from where orders were transmitted from the leaders of the Afghan counterrevolution, who had entrenched themselves in Pakistan.

Instructors from the USA and other Western countries, who trained bandits to carry out terrorism and acts of sabotage, were often feted in Marulgad. They all felt confident and secure in the well-fortified and, it seemed to them, impenetrable mountain lair just a short distance from Pakistan. But they were wrong.

The powerful surprise blow by units of the Afghan army was devastating. Breaking stubborn resistance and annihilating over 500 insurgents, the peoples army captured the entire base.

Forty-eight storage dumps containing weapons and ammunition were captured.

Another 19 dumps were filled with food, clothing and medicines.

Among the trophies there were dozens of mountain antiaircraft guns, heavy caliber machine guns and mortars, around 9,000 rockets of different types,

many thousands of mines and grenades, over 4.5 million rifle rounds and 8 tons of explosives. All of this was stockpiled to sow death and destruction on Afghan soil.

The defeat of the large insurgent band in Marulgad Gorge once again graphically demonstrates the hopelessness of the insurgents' armed struggle against the people. The Afghan armed forces are inflicting annihilatory defeats upon the counterrevolution.

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CSO: 1801/67

AFGHANISTAN

ACCOUNT OF A TRAINING EXERCISE IN DRA

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Jun 86 p 6

[Article by V. Verstakov, PRAVDA special correspondent: "The Way to the Top -- From An Afghan Notepad"]

[Text] They are called up for first-term active duty when they are eighteen years old and sometimes, when there is a delay for family, educational or other valid reasons, slightly later. But who are "they?" We, the majority of the males in the country, served at one time or another and experienced "first-term active duty." And yet people want to know how the new military generation is serving, how it relaxes and what occupies its time in the army.

My Afghan notebook contains hundreds of names and descriptions of episodes that soldiers took part in. But I believe the episodes that they most want to reveal are those when they return home. I want to tell you about those things that the young soldiers don't reveal in their letters -- things about them personally.

Afghanistan has once again shown that we have very good young people. And indeed, to be honest, there has still been some doubt in many people: they say that today's young people were born into easy circumstances, have lived without problems and have not been hardened by trials.

I remember that I was afraid of generalizations after my first temporary Afghan trips. Yes, I was surprised at how deeply, literally to tears, the soldiers resented it when subunits went out to "work" and had to stay in a PPD (permanent deployment area) because of some service needs. But is it possible that there were other circumstances that I simply did not see? Our young internationalists have served in Afghanistan for six years, with call-up being replaced by call-up, but I have not met a lad who felt satisfied that he had shirked danger.

The Soviet character, patriotism and hereditary military merit are being developed. It seems awkward for the sons and grandsons of the victors in the Great Patriotic War to shed their merit, but they certainly do not write about this in their letters.

Five years ago I made reference in the newspaper to training our soldiers on Afghan soil and I began to get rebukes from readers. They said that I had invented all of that, but nonetheless there was such training. Battalions and companies set up firing ranges and fired on them, they looked for roads that were safe, without mines, and they underwent training to drive BTR's [armored personnel carriers] and tanks. And whereas in the Soviet Union there were times when soldiers looked at training as, for example, a service necessity, it was not necessary to convince soldiers in Afghanistan. They themselves asked commanders to give them a little extra practice in marksmanship, moving equipment and climbing a difficult hill.

And during my last temporary duty I saw some exercises that in general were surprising. The commander of a parachute assault regiment whose subunits were guarding important objectives along roadside and mountain posts planned these exercises.

I will not discuss the daylight portion of the the initial day of training, when the company was moving along the plains. By night the paratroopers were climbing a mountain where there was snow and was such a deafening wind that soldiers passed along their commanders' orders by shouting in each other's ear. They fell into the snow after first covering themselves with walls made from rocks. They did this not to protect against the wind (they were certainly too tired to think about that), but against possible enemy firing. The peak was sharp and several rock rifle pits were on the precipice. To this day I get chills when I remember how the officers climbed from soldier to soldier, inspecting the each person's position and asking how they felt.

We left the peak at dawn. Some time in the future mountain climbers will climb up there and marvel at the mysterious rock camp left by their remote ancestors. As, by the way, after twelve hours of continuous descents, climbs and again descents we marveled at the hand-carved statue -- the "Macedonian Pillar."

The path soon ended and there was only a half-meter ledge with a steep left side and an abyss on the right. A furious wind was somehow rushing around the mountain, pushing and pulling one toward the abyss. In my opinion, not only me, but all the paratroopers to a man wanted to lie down on the ledge and cross this accursed place on our hands and knees. The officers did not forbid it, but the soldiers crossed erect, although a rolled-up quilted jacket that was poorly attached to his bed roll was ripped away from one of the first to cross and was carried into the abyss, ominously waving its sleeves in invitation.

Beyond the ledge was a new, long, almost sheer slope. Two young radio operators (both named Andrey) pushed themselves to their limits and stopped. The exercise leader, battalion commander Vyacheslav Borisov, ordered the company to stop, for without communications it wasn't an exercise, but merely physical training. I could again make out the peak of the "Macedonian Pillar" from the break point, but several seconds later it was screened by the heavily panting chest of Private Iskander Dzhamolov. Although Iskander was a machine gunner, he was now carrying two radios and two automatic rifles in addition to his own on his back.

"Comrade Major, the Andryukhs are totally worn out. The radio is set to receive."

"I understand, Dzhamolov. Thank you. But do not help the radio operators any more. They are also being trained."

While Iskander, who had stepped off to the side, was dragging the radios and automatic rifles from his shoulders, Borisov told me about his cousins. Three of them were serving here in Afghanistan. Junior Sergeant Daler Ubaydullayev had distinguished himself many times in dangerous reconnaissance operations, had been wounded and had received the Order of the Red Star. Sergeant Ibodulo Mirzoyev had that medal and Private First Class Delovar Umarov and this same Iskander had been put in for that same medal. The brothers had been called up from Dushanbe where, by the way, Dzhamolov work as a cook in the Pamir Restaurant. He must have been a good cook because he had obtained a fifth-class rating before entering the service.

The Andryukhs showed up, guiltily loaded the radios, took their weapons and the paratroopers got up off the rocks and again moved upward. For the next hour the company moved, slowly but without a hitch. Everyone could feel how tired the people really were. The first falls were accidental -- a foot slipped on a rock or a rock shifted. The soldiers would get up, slow up for ten seconds, shake their heads and then walk further. But soon those who fell were calling for the medical instructor, Junior Sergeant Ivan Svorotov. He would bring them to their senses with ammonium chloride.

Sergeants and officers turned and bent over those who were tired. I saw an officer lean over one of the soldiers and I thought that I would hear a sharp order, but Senior Lieutenant Andrey Shutov found other words and a different tone. "Well, why are you looking at me with those eyes, brother? The world is beautiful, soldier!"

The soldier got up. And went on. And kept going until he reached the peak. He will certainly not remember the officer's words now, but they were said and they helped because they were true. The world is beautiful and must remain that way -- beautiful and peaceful. It is worth enduring and serving for that.

The long-awaited peak greeted the paratroopers with an impenetrable thick cloud which, in addition to everything else, was rushing and swirling between grey boulders and over crevices that were choked with dry snow. Night came soon and it got dark quickly, as it does in the mountains. The soldiers again build a defensive rock camp and the officers walked around and inspected the work.

After midnight Borisov called the company commander, Senior Lieutenant Selyanko. "Aleksandr Konstantinovich, according to the training plan, you have to occupy yet another peak, but in my opinion, your people have reached their limit. How do you feel?"

"Comrade Major, I will carry out the assigned mission."

I was able to catch the major's somber, evaluating look by the light from a flashlight. "Then, comrade senior lieutenant, I will give you the next situation. Each platoon has two wounded men."

"So be it. We will carry them."

Borisov walked away and I asked Selyanko for the names of the soldiers he had in mind for this especially difficult part of the passage. Sergeant Valeriy Zubkov was a squad commander. Although he was already carrying one-and-a-half times the normal load, he was assisting those who were lagging and he had spent the previous night as a messenger. Private Sergey Doskutov had detected the tracks of recent enemy movement in the foothills and this allowed them to avoid a possible ambush. Before that he had detected and removed a mine. Junior Sergeant Vladimir Tonkikh was an assistant platoon commander. He had only serve for a few months, but had an iron will.

"Don't you think that I feel sorry for them?" Selyanko suddenly said in pain. "Do you think that I cannot imagine how difficult it is for these lads now? I myself went from private to senior sergeant. Today they are overcoming themselves and tomorrow they will overcome everything. They will win and return alive. Excuse me, it is time to get the company up."

All of the rest, the night move to another peak, a morning withdrawal back to the valley, a training attack against some ruins from the middle ages and even real damage to a BTR in the armored column that had come out to meet the paratroopers (it happened in front of our eyes, approximately five hundred meters from the company, but it was a small mine and the driver, Private Sergey Presnyakov, only got a slight contusion and they were able to repair the armored personnel carrier), was almost forgotten because of fatigue.

Then, back at the security post from which the exercise had begun and where the company now returned on vehicles after succeeding in resting a little on the trip, the sensation of reality and the fullness of a soldier's life was immediately restored and even, in my opinion, enhanced.

The faithful mongrel Nyurka, senselessly happy and with a non-dog-like face, immediately jumped out of the trenches and dashed to meet the column. Then without hurrying, the soldiers from the reconnaissance company that had replaced us here while Selyanko's company was on the exercise solidly came up the earthen steps and told us that a while back someone had been walking through the hills, Dushman had approached here and even fired four rockets at the post.

After this information the soldiers who had arrived forgot their torture in the hills once and for all, jumped off the "armor" and began to ask in a proprietary manner where exactly the rounds had come from and to discuss among themselves how to get the company commander to give them permission to go out at night and set up an ambush...

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CSO: 1801/64

AFGHANISTAN

PRAVDA SCORES CLAIMS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN DRA

PM021610 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Dec 86 First Edition p 5

[V. Baykov report: "When There Are No Facts: 'Psychological Warfare' Against Afghanistan"]

[Text] When there are no facts, you have to invent them -- that is the cynical principle which guides the bourgeois mass media, who are continuing the "psychological warfare" against democratic Afghanistan. All kinds of "sensations" are created by the fevered imagination of the paid scribblers.

One widespread propagandist claim is the fabrication that Soviet-made toxic chemicals are being used in the DRA. This slander has repeatedly been refuted by the most competent officials and organizations, including representatives of the International Red Cross. But only the other day the British journal JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY tried to revive this vile slanderous "canard." It reported, citing vague "diplomatic sources," that Soviet troops had used chemical shells against "Islamic guerrillas" (read: counterrevolutionaries -- V.B.) in fighting near Paghman and (Chesmibulbul).

What can one say to the authors of the latest "sensation"? Perhaps one could remind them that the American Journal SOLDIER OF FORTUNE (the mercenaries' mouth piece), which was once involved in provocative machinations, promised 100,000 dollars to anyone who could obtain proof of the use of Soviet chemical ammunition in Afghanistan, but has yet to present anyone with this reward?

But since we are talking about the use of chemical weapons on Afghan territory, we must recall that Afghan army servicemen, in eliminating counterrevolutionary gangs, have often come across chemical ammunition. But these are marked "Made in the United States." Thus the chemical grenades containing CS-517, seized in the suburbs of Gerat were stamped with the mark: "Made in the (Soltsburg) federal laboratories, Pennsylvania, United States."

Why does the West keep playing the old propagandist discs again and again? The ballyhoo they create is designed to distort international public opinion on the true state of affairs in Afghanistan, and Western politicians need that for their political machinations.

Then the other day, to the tune of propagandist blather, the United States and its allies, despite the resolute protests of many countries belonging to the Untied Nations, foisted on the Third Committee (social, humanitarian, and cultural questions) of the present UN General Assembly session the discussion of a "report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan"...

But as the Afghan proverb rightly says, you cannot hide the sun by flinging dust. And the imperialists cannot hide their own machinations over Afghanistan behind the dust of lies and slander.

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CSO: 1801/81

AFGHANISTAN

SOVIET ORDER AWARDED TO AFGHAN PILOTS

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Oct 86 p 1

[Article by D. Meshchaninov: "Soviet Awards to Afghan Servicemen"]

[Text] Kabul (IZVESTIYA special correspondent). The Soviet ambassador to the DRA [Democratic Republic of Afghanistan], P. Mozhayev, awarded in the name of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet the Order of Friendship of Peoples to Captain Abdullah Vasi and Captain Abdullah Takhir who displayed courage and heroism in rescuing Soviet servicemen.

A radio report arrived from Chamkan: A Soviet officer, Vladimir Korshunov, is severely wounded. We request that you send a helicopter at once.

It was this March, and the weather for the "chopper" was the poorest flying weather possible--low cloud cover and hurricane wind with a pouring rain. The crew under the command of the 25-year-old Abdullah Vasi tried to approach Chamkan several times from various directions, but all attempts ended without results.

"As professionals," recalls A. Vasi, "we understood that there were virtually no chances to break through such bad weather. But as people and soldiers, we could not fail to do our duty to such a seriously wounded friend. We decided to try once more.... At a certain moment the helicopter found itself between two layers of clouds. As formerly, the ground could not be seen. The cockpit window was covered with ice. When we landed nevertheless, streams of rain melted the ice. Several hours later, when the weather had improved a little, we delivered the casualty to Gardez."

The decorations were awarded to the Afghan pilots on a rectangular square adorned with flowers in front of the Central Museum of the DRA Army. Its exhibits tell of the selfless, heroic struggle of the Afghan Armed Forces against the counterrevolutionary bands and of the fraternal assistance of the Soviet servicemen who are performing their international duty in Afghanistan.

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CSO: 1801/36

AFGHANISTAN

EXPERIENCES OF OFFICER WOUNDED IN DRA

Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 24 Oct 86 p 2

[Article by V. Tarasenko: "There, in the Mountains of Afghanistan"]

[Text] Captain Valeriy Greshilo had not been home for a long time! Yesterday he walked about Leningrad, recognizing and not recognizing it. His wife was next to him, and making noise around him was a big city, the meeting with which he had awaited for a long time.

After completion of the Leningrad Higher Military Command Artillery School the officer's life led him far from his threshold. He was also in the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan. How much he had travelled, how much he had seen and endured! It seems that this is enough for an entire life, but you see, he is only 30.

...Greshilo's battery guarded the northern approaches to Salang Pass through which the motor road from the border of the Soviet Union to Kabul passes.

"Our post was the key to the lock," Valeriy Vasilyevich relates, "and the Dushmen often tried to turn it in their favor and halt traffic over the route. But they were always rebuffed. Our soldiers, together with the Afghan soldiers, protected vehicle columns with food from the Dushman fire, saved children, women, and old people from neighboring villages from the bullets of the bandits, and shared their rations with them."

...The Dushmen attacked a column before dawn. Ignobly, insidiously, and suddenly. But the men who accompanied the vehicles, among whom also was Captain Greshilo, did not lose their heads and occupied the defense. A battle was initiated. Greshilo was suddenly blinded by a bright flash....

The physicians struggled for his life in Bagram, Kabul, and Tashkent. And when he opened his eyes for the first time, he saw his mother and wife bent over him. "How did you get here?" he was surprised. They kept silent. Neither one nor the other at that time had enough strength to tell him that they had been on watch at his bed for a month already. The wound was so serious that the physicians gave no guarantees. However, Natasha could do what medicine could not. Her love, concern, and attention put Valeriy on his feet in its direct meaning. And in eight months his sons embraced the father: nine-year-old Anton and

five-year-old Sasha. And one month later Greshilo was awarded the combat Order of the Red Star.

Now he is in Leningrad, but....

"Not a day passes when I fail to recall Afghanistan," says Valeriy Vasilevich, "it is there that I understood the value of friendship and mutual assistance. There I experienced the entire depth of hatred for the enemies of peace."

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CSO: 1801/36

AFGHANISTAN

AIR DEFENSE, OTHER TROOP WITHDRAWALS NOTED, EXPLAINED

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Oct 86 p 3

[Article by A. Gorokhov, V. Okulov, and V. Paradnya, Kabul, October: "Hot Bread, Cold Water!"]

[Text] Such a thing is never forgotten. The residents of Kabul went out into the streets with flowers and flags of the USSR and the DRA [Democratic Republic of Afghanistan], forming an endless living corridor which stretched through the entire city. Showered with flowers, the combat vehicles of the Soviet anti-aircraft regiment went along this corridor to applause and toasts in honor of Afghan-Soviet friendship and shouts of "Tashakkor!"--"Thank you!" The regiment moved out of Bala Khisar--"upper fortress," the crown of the ancient walls which crowned one of the hills of the Afghan capital. The regiment's path--to its native soil.

It was the first of three antiaircraft regiments which had finished their international mission as part of the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan. We had just received a report: one more regiment of motorized riflemen had moved out on the route to the borders of the USSR. The return of Soviet units to the motherland is continuing.

It is being accomplished with the support of the Afghans and with their understanding of the peace-loving political meaning of this measure and under the malicious threats of the Dushmen and false fabrications of those in the West who are inspiring and trying to expand external aggression against the DRA rather than curtail it. The echoes of these fabrications are also heard here, in Kabul, where a large group of foreign correspondents is working.

The remark was heard at one of the press conferences:

"The counterrevolution has no aviation. This also means that the withdrawal of the antiaircraft regiments does not have the military significance ascribed to this fact!"

The reply of the first deputy minister of defense of the DRA, Lieutenant General (Nabi Azimi) was convincing:

"There is no air war because our antiaircraft soldiers are vigilantly standing combat watch. It is an important defense mission and it must be considered.

Under Afghanistan conditions, in addition, the antiaircraftmen protect communications and strategic objectives which they are defending against air attack."

Today, in talking with the Soviet soldiers at send-offs of the regiment in Bala Khisar, the correspondents were convinced of the accuracy of (N. Azimi's) evaluation with all obviousness.

Our partners in conversation, Majors A. Prigolovkin and G. Yermakov and Senior Warrant Officer [praporshchik] A. Alekseyev, told about combat episodes on this hot land. About how bands fired on the positions with rocket projectiles and no one shirked or abandoned his post but gave the bandits a rebuff with their own forces. They recalled Senior Lieutenant Ye. Ulyanov--he led a column of vehicles which the "ghosts" fired upon from ambush. The commander, with a group of fighters, covered the column with fire and it passed without losses.

We also heard the story of how an eight-year-old boy was blown up on a mine not far from the disposition point of one of the regiment's subunits. He was carried from the minefield and a military doctor, Major A. Vinnik, and medical assistant Warrant Officer S. Sergeyev saved his life.

"Difficult combat days are behind us," said Junior Sergeant S. Bondarenko, speaking at a farewell meeting. "For us, service in Afghanistan became a test of endurance and courage."

Can one speak of everything in a short speech? For you see, those who are returning to the motherland these days have something to talk about. They are experienced people who have seen and experienced much. They carried wounded comrades from the battlefield and, beating back the attacks of the Dushmen, are able to pursue them in the mountains in full marching order. They know that, taking off on a march which may end in battle, they should also take along provisions in addition to cartridges and that in the fall it is a little easier to slake thirst--the soldier packs with snow a knapsack which he carries and melts the snow with the heat of his body....

Firm political and combat tempering has been acquired by our lads in Afghanistan during the days and years of counteracting furious attempts to deprive the people of the entire country of the right which we, Soviet people, are able to love from childhood and which, in our life, is like the air you breathe-- freedom and equality, culture and democracy, the good fortune to labor calmly, the international brotherhood of peoples. It is the moral tempering of a lofty test and an intensified sense of responsibility for everything that is around. Unquestionably, for the youth it will become a support in life and in labor on their native soil.

On the land of the neighboring country the internationalist soldiers were at home in its distant corners, leaving behind a well-organized territory, fields cleared of mines and, most important, friends who retain their loyalty to their comrades in arms. And here, those who settle down in Bala Khisar will occupy comfortable housing and will enjoy modern dining halls, baths, and an excellently equipped medical aid station.

...We are on a square of Bala Khisar when the antiaircraft regiment's send-off ceremony is in full swing. The General Secretary of the Central Committee of Afghanistan's People's Democratic Party [NDPA], Nadjib, and members of the politburo of the NDPA arrived here. Comrade Nadjib gave a speech. He and the Soviet ambassador to the DRA, P. Mozhayev, awarded the Soviet internationalist soldiers Afghan and Soviet state decorations. The commander of the antiaircraft men, Lieutenant Colonel A. Kovalev, reads the text of the report to the CPSU Central Committee from the internationalist soldiers who are returning to the motherland.

Children diligently spell out: "Let the sun always shine!" Girls approach the soldiers' formation and give them kerchiefs with the Russian word "Thanks!" embroidered on them.

During these days one ponders much concerning the mission of the Soviet people and our country in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. One automatically looks for and finds a comparison with the already distant 1930's, with the time of the defense of republican Spain. You see, exactly half a century ago it received the first groups of Soviet volunteers.

Just as when at that time the internationalists fought with the vanguard of the fascist plague which had gained strength, now the soldiers of the limited contingent of Soviet troops together with the Afghan armed forces are resisting the hirelings of the most aggressive circles of imperialism and regional reaction.

Another time, another country.... That is true. But the same spirit of internationalism, the same patriotism, the same selflessness and mutual assistance. The same principle which a poet expressed in the words: "There is no alien misfortune..."

Among the true friends of Afghanistan and among the internationalists one sees not only soldiers, but also many other Soviet people--builders and education workers, engineers, translators, geologists, physicians and nurses. They are performing the task assigned to them just as honestly and selflessly.

Rightfully in the front ranks of the defenders of new Afghanistan are the mothers and fathers of our lads in the soldier's uniform. It is our duty to bow down to the ground before them as we were able to do always when there was a requirement from our people and our mothers and fathers for patience, selflessness, and the ability to wait for their sons who are defending not only their own home, but also that of their neighbors who had gotten into trouble.

...Combat vehicles go past us again and again. Here already is the last one in the column, just like the last railroad car of a departing train. Rocking, it conceals itself behind a turn, causing a plaintive sense of parting.

Women go out on the road where metal had just clanked and they sprinkle with water from jugs the dust which was raised by the wheels.

It is an ancient Afghan custom: thus mothers, seeing their sons off, wish them bon voyage, hot bread, and cold water!

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

REBEL ROCKETS HIT AFGHAN CITY--Kabul, 11 Dec--Hired bandits, who infiltrated DRA territory from abroad, have committed a new crime. According to BAKHTAR, dushman opened rocket fire on residential districts of the city of Asadabad in Konarha Province close to the border with Pakistan. As a result of this barbaric action, 7 of Asadabad's residents were killed and 25 seriously injured. [Text] [Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Dec 86 Morning Edition p 2 PM] /12624

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